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KING PONG

Beastly smells:
Visitors were overwhelmed by the stench inside the gorilla enclosure

Zoo's smelly gorillas given sprout ban

by **KERRY GROVE**

kgrove@london.newsquest.co.uk

Forget father trumping at the dinner table this Christmas, a group of Chessington residents have proved themselves the smelliest of all the beasts. Gorillas at Chessington World of Adventures have had sprouts removed from their festive feeding-time, after visitors were offended by their smelly flatulence.

The Leatherhead Road park and zoo's 10 gorillas were producing such a strong smell after eating the green treats that zookeepers decided to remove them from their diet while the zoo is open between 10am and 3pm.

People visiting the park were said to be overwhelmed by the stench when they went to see the big apes, but still saw the funny side through watering eyes.

Zookeepers will now give the usual diet of vegetables, fruits, nuts and leaves during opening hours but will add the sprouts in the evenings and let the gorillas trump to their hearts' content.

A spokeswoman from Chessington World of Adventures said: "This is the first year that we have given our gorillas brussels sprouts. The zoo decided to give them the sprouts as a festive treat, and because they are packed full of vitamin C. "The gorillas loved them, but unfortunately our guests weren't so keen on the smell that the gorillas produced afterwards."

The gorillas, two of which have lived at the zoo since 1969, will be allowed to join the festive spirit and eat the sprouts all day while the zoo is closed on Christmas Day. Boxing Day visitors may want to take their noseplugs.

Battersea Park Children's Zoo will not be giving any sprouts to its animals this year, although a spokeswoman could not confirm whether animal flatulence had any bearing on their decision.

It is not only gorillas that are affected by festive wind. Turtles at a sea life centre in Weymouth caused a Boxing Day emergency in 2006, when their flatulence set off an alarm.

The bubbles in the tank were sent up a tube to the surface where they popped and splashed water on to a sensor.

Marine biologists rushed to the 500,000 litre tank assuming it was overflowing.

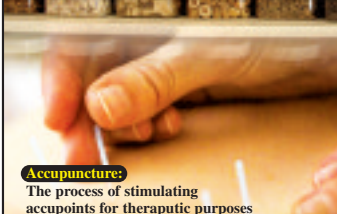
Tips to stop your living room smelling this Christmas

- Take charcoal tablets – they attract excess gas in the stomach and bowels, which binds to the surface of the charcoal powder.
- Calm down – stress is known to trigger and aggravate flatulence tissue, tightening abdominal muscles and causing spasms.
- Take a walk – taking mild exercise can help food travel more smoothly through the digestive system.
- Cut back on foods such as cauliflower, peppers, cabbage, milk, bread, eggs, beer and raisins.

Inside

- Rose funding approved page 2
- Charges made over estate burglary page 3

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Seven days, seven events

Thursday

Catch Beauty and the Beast with giant puppetry, hilarious characters and a friendly dragon on at the Secombe Theatre, 42 Cheam Street, Sutton.

Friday

Need to take the dog for a walk? Bring your faithful companion to Kith, Kin and Kanine at St Mary's Church in the Church Centre, Church Road, Wallington from 10am-11.30am.

Saturday

See how Christmas was celebrated in Victorian times at this Victorian Christmas family workshop. 11am-3pm, Museum of Richmond, Old Town Hall, Whittaker Avenue, Richmond.

Sunday

Free guided cycle ride starts at

Pollards Hill library, South Lodge Avenue, Mitcham, to the Mint pub at Banstead for a leisurely Christmas lunch. The ride is 25 miles and participants should bring lights.

Monday

The Chiswick Women's Institute meeting is taking place in the New Hall, Chiswick Methodist Church, Sutton Court Road, Chiswick.

Tuesday

Create a Christmas card competition at the Golden Treasury Children's Bookshop, Replingham Road, Southfields, Wandsworth. 020 8333 0167.

Wednesday

Ice skating combined with rock and roll in Solid Silver Skates in Fairfield Park Lane, Croydon. The show starts at 11am.

Raven's Ait name-change plan under attack

History buffs are unhappy at plans to change Raven's Ait into Antoinette Island, after a local hotel chain announced its interest in buying the venue.

Bosses at Antoinette Hotel in Kingston approached the administration company looking after Raven's Ait, which went into administration on November 27.

Antoinette managing director Paul Buzasi wants to open the venue as a restaurant, conference centre and wedding venue.

He said: "We would be interested in opening it up to the community and opening a restaurant there in the evening. I think a lot more can be done there."

He said the venue would be rebranded Antoinette Island, in line with the company's two other hotels in Kingston and Wimbledon.

He added: "After going



What's in a name: Raven's Ait could be called Antoinette Island

Deadlinepix KT24148

through administration it has hurt the brand, especially if people have had their weddings cancelled there."

The island, known originally as "Raven's Arse", was the scene in 1217 of the

signing of the Treaty of Kingston, which saved England from the prospect of total French control.

John McCarthy, a Kingston tour guide, said: "I would be disappointed if its name was changed

because it is a piece of real history.

"It is as if someone would take over Hampton Court and call it the Holiday Inn."

Keep up to date with this story at kingstonguardian.co.uk

Rose cash under scrutiny

by ALITA HOWE

ahowe@london.newsquest.co.uk

Opposition councillors have called in for scrutiny Kingston Council's decision to give £600,000-a-year to the Rose Theatre.

Supporters of the theatre, including vice-chairman of the theatre trust Robin Hutchinson and trustee Frank Whately, attended the Guildhall on Tuesday, December 9, to hear the Liberal Democrat executive ratify plans to subsidise the theatre.

The decision would have been in exchange for a package

educational activities co-ordinated by Kingston Music and Arts Service.

Coun Osbourne said the option to fund the theatre for £600,000-a-year or spend £450,000 in the first year alone to close it, was a "no-brainer".

Conservative Councillor Nick Kilby said: "This is a significant level of expenditure for the council to agree to undertake."

"At £1.8m over three years it is important that we treat this as we would for any other

major contract such as with waste management or ground maintenance."

David Fletcher, executive director of the Rose Theatre, said: "We are delighted that the executive agreed the proposal."

"This will enable the theatre to plan our activities and further develop our audiences. We expected this decision to be called in and will contribute to the scrutiny process."

Keep up to date with this story at kingstonguardian.co.uk

Your cut-out-and-keep guide to Christmas

A number of services, including chemist openings, and rubbish collections face disruption over the festive season.

A list of opening and changes are detailed below.

CHEMIST CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

CHRISTMAS DAY:

Ace Pharmacy, 1-3 Parade, Chessington, 10am-2pm
020 8397 4564
Lloyds, 11 The Broadway, Tolworth, 9am-1pm
020 8390 6797

BOXING DAY:

Ace Pharmacy, 1-3 Parade, Chessington, 10am-2pm
020 8397 4564
Boots, 42 Union Street, Kingston, 10am-5pm
020 8541 1644
Boots, the Bental Centre, Kingston, 11am-5pm
020 8974 9339
Lloyds, 11 The Broadway, Tolworth, 9am-11pm
020 8390 6797
Boots, 116-118 High Street, New Malden, 10am-4pm
020 8942 0935

NEW YEAR'S DAY:

Ace Pharmacy, 1-3 Parade, Chessington, 10am-2pm
020 8397 4564

Boots, 42 Union Street, Kingston, 11am-5pm
020 8541 1644

Boots, The Bental Centre, Kingston, 11am-5pm
020 8974 9339

Sainsbury's, 73-81 Richmond Road, Kingston, 11am-4pm
020 8546 4605

Lloyds, 11 The Broadway, Tolworth, 9am-11pm
020 8390 6797

Boots, 116-118 High Street, New Malden, 10am-4pm
020 8942 0935

Boots, 59-63 The Broadway, Tolworth, 10am-4pm
020 8399 9836

RUBBISH AND REFUGE COLLECTIONS.

Services return to normal after the dates listed below.

CHRISTMAS WEEK:

Normal collection date: Thursday, December 25.
Amended collection date: Saturday, December 27.

Normal collection date: Friday, December 26.

Amended collection date: Monday, December 29.

NEW YEAR WEEK:

Normal collection date: Monday, December 29.

Amended collection date: Tuesday, December 30.

Normal collection date: Tuesday, December 30.

Amended collection date: Wednesday, December 31.

Normal collection date: Wednesday, December 31.

Amended collection date: Friday, January 2.

Normal collection date: Thursday, January 1.

Amended collection date: Saturday, January 3.

Normal collection date: Friday, January 2.

Amended collection date: Monday, January 5.

WEEK OF JANUARY 5, 2009:

Normal collection date: Monday, January 5.

Amended collection date: Tuesday, January 6.

Normal collection date: Tuesday, January 6.

Amended collection date: Wednesday, January 7.

Normal collection date: Wednesday, January 7.

Amended collection date: January 8.

Normal collection date: Thursday, January 8.

Amended collection date: Friday, January 9.

Normal collection date: Friday, January 9.

Amended collection date: Saturday, January 10.

In the weeks starting January 12 and January 9 you can put your Christmas tree out for free compost collection.

POLICE STATION OPENING TIMES

New Malden and Surbiton stations will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Kingston police station will be open as usual over the whole festive period.

For hundreds more events go to kingstonguardian.co.uk/events

SEE THIS CLIP ON
yourlocalguardian.co.uk



LOCAL NEWS

Video news

See a Carshalton family's novel approach to decorating their garden tree this year.

yourlocal kingstonguardian.co.uk/video

Competition

Enter our competition for free tickets to see Sunset Boulevard at the Theatre Comedy in the West End.

Visit yourlocalguardian.co.uk/leisure/competitions/ for more.



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The Guardian series is published by Newsquest Media Group, a Gannett Company

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Sucess in a shoebox

The people of Kingston have sent more than 1,700 shoeboxes to people in need.

Operation Christmas Child said "thank you" this week to residents for helping children in Belarus and Ukraine.

The children's charity looked set to almost reach its UK target of 1.25m shoeboxes, as volunteers packed up the last lorries this week.

Gordon McCann, the charity's regional manager, said: "It has been a great response, particularly at a time when people are finding resources stretched."

"Our volunteers collected the shoeboxes from throughout Kingston and took them to the warehouses in Croydon and Esher, where we checked, packed and loaded them on to lorries for transportation to their destinations."

Three charged with break in

Three people have been charged in relation to a burglary in Kingston, which took place just an hour before 21-year-old Patrick Katende was found dead in a lift shaft on the Cambridge Gardens estate.

Murad Mussa, 21, of Potters Grove, New Malden, Faisal Farah, 21, of Fullers Avenue, Surbiton, and a 17-year-old girl have been charged with burglary.

They have been remanded in custody and will appear at Kingston Magistrates' Court on Thursday, December 18.

Police were called to reports of a burglary in progress at a computer shop at 5.38am on Thursday, December 4.

At 7am, police were then called to reports of a man stranded in a lift

by ALITA HOWE

ahowe@london.newsquest.co.uk

shaft on the Cambridge Gardens estate, and Mr Katende was pronounced dead at the scene.

The Metropolitan Police's directorate of professional standards, based in Putney, is investigating Mr Katende's death and whether it is linked to the burglary.

A police statement said: "It is being treated as a potential death following police contact."

Mr Katende's funeral was being held on Tuesday, as the Kingston Guardian went to press.

See this week's Surrey Comet for a report.

Leave tributes to Mr Katende at kingstonguardian.co.uk

A special visitor



Ho ho ho: Santa asks Joshua Brooker what he wants for Christmas

A Christmas grotto designer by Harry Potter illustrator Amanda Leggett was organised for sick children at Kingston Hospital this weekend.

The children's cancer charity Momentum laid on the grotto in the hospital's children's garden on Saturday, December 13, and Kingston author Dame Jacqueline Wilson also paid a visit.

Bianca Effemey, from Momentum, said: "Lots of the children who have been treated for cancer came along to visit Santa in the grotto, despite the rain pouring down all day long. "They thought it was absolutely magical."

Are you in the picture? Buy a copy at kingstonguardian.co.uk

Win yourself £1,000 in next week's e-edition

With Christmas Day falling on a Thursday, we have decided to give our hard working paperboys a well-earned festive break this year.

So, for one week only, there will be no local Guardian delivered to your door next week - which is good news on two fronts.

Firstly you won't be woken on Christmas Day or Boxing Day by the sound of your local Guardian newspaper dropping onto the doormat.

Secondly, we will be doing our bit for the environment by not adding to the mountain of wrapping paper and packaging which will need to be recycled next week.

But for those of you who can't do without your favourite weekly newspaper even on Christmas week - fear not, we are publishing an online edition!

This will be packed with the best news from across the borough in 2008, a panto round-up, festive events and local advertising to

help you make the most of the festive sales.

And don't miss out on the chance to win £1,000 of shopping vouchers as the e-edition will carry the last of the questions in our great competition - see page 9 for details.

So, in between munching on mince pies and wrapping up the last of the presents, make sure you log on to kingstonguardian.co.uk for the Christmas week e-edition - available from first thing on December 23.

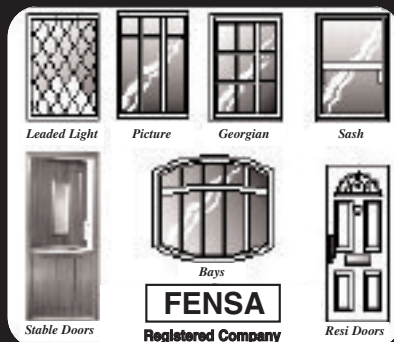
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The creator of Bagpuss and Clangers dies at 83

Bagpuss creator Oliver Postgate, who studied at Kingston College of Art in the 1940s, died last week aged 83.

The children's TV legend, the brains behind timeless classics including the Clangers, Noggin the Nog and Ivor the Engine, died at a nursing home in Broadstairs, Kent.

Despite only 13 episodes of the iconic Bagpuss being made in 1973, the show has been reg-

by **MIKE DIDYMUS**

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ularly repeated since, and it was revealed in October that media company Coolbair had bought the rights and plans to resurrect the pink cloth cat for a new generation.

Postgate discovered his interest in art at Dartington Hall, Devon, before signing up at Kingston College of Art, in-

tending to become a stage designer.

But after being court-martialled and briefly imprisoned in 1944 as a conscientious objector, he spent a decade drifting through a variety of jobs before finding his way into television, as a stage manager and prop designer for ITV in the late 1950s.

In 1959, he had his first great success with Ivor the Engine, a

small Welsh steam train desperate to sing in a choir. He used simple single-frame animations which would become his trademark.

Postgate married Prue Myers in 1957, taking on three stepchildren and fathering three more sons with her before her death in 1982.

Did you know Mr Postgate?
Tell us your memories at
kingstonguardian.co.uk

Ahoy there for TV job

A Kingston University student is making the news - literally.

Third year journalism student Jamal Osman travelled to the village of Eyl on the east coast of Africa.

He intended to film pirates making plans.

He ended up interviewing the pirate leader.

His work was shown on Channel 4 News, and may have secured him work in the future too.

Mr Osman, who is originally from Somalia, said it was "risky" making contact with the pirates.

He added: "It would have been far more dangerous for a western journalist.

"In fact it would have been impossible."

His film clips were used on a report on November 26.

He has since been promised more work with Channel 4 in the future.

Tutor Brian Cathcart said: "The news world is extremely competitive, but he got out there and competed.

"He produced a scoop that many of the top foreign correspondents in the country must envy.

"We are all delighted for him.

"And the best of it is, it really could not have happened to a nicer person."

Have you got a story for us?
Tell us at kingstonguardian.co.uk

Buildings are temporary

Kingston University should only be allowed to build temporary classrooms on its Tolworth sports ground in an absolute emergency, councillors said last week.

The university has submitted plans to build teaching facilities for 250 students on the Old Kingston Road site, as a part of its contingency plan if there was a major incident, such as a fire, which made regular buildings unusable.

The portable classrooms would be built on two tennis courts for a period of up to six months.

The proposals were supported by councillors at the Surbiton neighbourhood committee on Wednesday, De-

cember 10, on the condition that they were only built in exceptional circumstances and for a short time.

Councillor Yogan Yoganathan chaired the meeting.

He said: "I understand what they are trying to do.

"It is just a contingency. We would like to support anyone with a similar business if they're in a difficult situation.

"Kingston University has so many students.

"They are in Metropolitan Open Land so we have to be careful."

A final decision will be made at the council's development control meeting in January.

Is the council right? Tell us at
kingstonguardian.co.uk



Thrilled: Youngsters having fun at the show Deadlinepix KT24145

Enjoying light fantastic

Hundreds of shoppers enjoyed an interactive light show in the town centre last week.

The display was organised by town centre management group Kingstonfirst, in Memorial Square on Thursday, December 11, and also featured a traditional fairground organ.

Liz Ellis, of Kingstonfirst,

said she was delighted with the turn out.

"Kingstonfirst were thrilled that so many enjoyed the first ever interactive light show in Kingston.

"We'll be looking at making it a regular part of the town centre event programme."

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*Excludes 25.12.08, 26.12.08 and all closed days
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Rise in 999 calls blamed on drinking excessively

by ALITA HOWE

ahowe@london.newsquest.co.uk

Kingston has seen the second biggest rise in London for alcohol-related 999 calls over the past three years, new figures have revealed.

Statistics released by the London Ambulance Service show that since 2004/5, the amount of calls attributed to alcohol in the Kingston Primary Care Trust area increased by 42.3 per cent.

In 2007/8, there were 1,214 alcohol-related 999 calls in the borough which was an increase of 6.3 per cent on the previous year.

Alcohol-related calls were responsible for 7.4 per cent of all emergency service calls in 2007/8.

Mark Gatfield, of New Malden ambulance base, said: "Although Kingston has seen a particularly high rise in these calls over the past few years, we're working hard with partner agencies to tackle the problem."



Burdened: Ambulance on call

"Since last year, the rise in alcohol-related calls in the borough has been below the

London average and we're keen to continue this good work."

Paul Riordan, business crime reduction manager at Kingstonfirst, said: "We should all be concerned about people drinking excessively, whether it is at home or elsewhere, and the burden it has on our ambulance service."

Mr Riordan said the increase equated to 361 additional calls since 2004/5 and partners across the town centre were working to reduce the burden on the ambulance service.

Town centre managers Kingstonfirst organised a safe place to tackle alcohol related injuries in April, which treated 16 people over five weekends, only one of whom was drunk.

Despite its success, Mr Riordan said it had been decided at a recent review not to extend the scheme because of the low number of people who were treated.

Get the top local stories every day at kingstonguardian.co.uk/news/topstories

Violence on the street

Dozens of Kingston streets have become no-go areas for ambulance staff, because of the threat of violence or abuse.

London Ambulance Service has revealed there are 49 addresses on its "high risk" list at its New Malden base, which encompasses the whole of Kingston and small parts of Sutton and Merton.

It means ambulance crews have to wait for police back up before helping people in a medical emergency, sometimes adding extra minutes on to their journeys.

Addresses are deemed to be high risk if assaults have happened there before, previous paramedics have raised concerns or there is a history of domestic abuse. London Ambulance Service has refused to release further details about where exactly these addresses are.

The number of assaults on Kingston ambulance staff increased by 20 per cent in the past year. Of the 24 as-

saults in 2007/8, eight of them were physical and 16 were verbal.

A spokeswoman from London Ambulance Service said the at risk list did not correspond to assaults on staff, and it is a "pre-emptive list to prevent assaults on staff".

She said: "This high risk register helps to protect staff from being sent into potentially dangerous situations."

"When we receive a call to a flagged address indicating a threat to our staff, we immediately notify the police. We will not enter the property until they are also in attendance."

A spokesman from the patients' association said the escort system was unfair on patients who are genuinely innocent and find themselves unable to be treated quickly.

For details of health services in your area, visit kingstonguardian.co.uk

Keep up to date with the debate kingstonguardian.co.uk

Controversial traffic scheme for Market Place

Permanent closure to traffic could kill off traders in Market Place, it was warned this week.

After a pilot of the scheme, councillors decided last week to make the traffic ban permanent, and Kingston Council is now in line for an £80,000 Transport for Lon-

don (TfL) grant, to pay for automated bollards to control traffic flow.

The experimental closure started in February this year and banned parking and restricted the hours in which deliveries could be made.

Despite a 42-signature petition being presented by

Councillor Steve Mama, secretary of Kingston Market Traders' Association, Kingston town neighbourhood committee approved plans at a meeting on Wednesday, December 10.

Chairman of the neighbourhood committee, Councillor Chrissie Hitchcock

said: "The response from the consultation was overwhelmingly positive and no one spoke against the proposals."

Coun Mama said he was furious at how the consultation was handled.

What do you think of the decision? Have your say at kingstonguardian.co.uk

Sign up to save original features

A petition has been started to encourage Kingston Council to take a tougher stance on the borough's conservation areas.

The e-petition, which has so far attracted 55 signatures on the Kingston Council website, urges the council to adopt planning legislation which will prevent "unsympathetic changes" to buildings within a conservation area and promote the retention and repair of original features.

The petition was started by Philip Richards, chairman of the conservation area advisory committee, who wants Kingston to follow the lead of neighbouring borough Richmond, which has already signed up to the legislation.

The petition closes on December 31 and can be found at kingston.gov.uk

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You'll buy this for your beloved wife, expecting her to fill its 32MB of internal memory with lovely family snaps which you can then watch for up to 11 hours on a single charge.

Instead, she'll upload that picture of herself looking fat in a bikini, to stop herself eating all the Ben & Jerry's. Oh, well, all the more for you.

Both available from iwantoneofthose.com

HARRY MILLER looks at the range of presents online

All I want for Christmas

Buying Christmas presents for your loved ones can be a difficult task, especially if working full-time means the Christmas period creeps up on you.

That is why the Kingston Guardian has compiled a list of this year's top unusual toys and gifts for under £100.

We have produced this guide to what's hot and what's not this Christmas for your wife, husband, parents and siblings, all of which can be purchased online, saving you from the hustle and bustle of

busy shopping centres.

Each item comes from well-known online retailer's list of top 10 gifts for the festive period and, after serious consideration, we have chosen a selection of the ones we think are the most entertaining, quirky and best value for money.

From Star Wars toys to My Little Pony, this guide gives you an idea of what to spend your hard earned cash on for this year's festivities, making you a sure-fire hit on Christmas Day.



Presents galore: What will you be getting this Christmas?



Extended Christmas Opening Hours

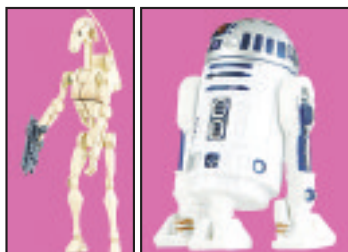
Weekdays	9.00am - 9.00pm
Saturdays	8.00am - 7.00pm
Sundays	11.00am - 5.00pm
Christmas Eve	9.00am - 5.00pm
Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	11.00am - 5.00pm
Sat 27th December	8.00am - 7.00pm
Sun 28th December	11.00am - 5.00pm
Mon 29th December	11.00am - 7.00pm
Tue 30th December	9.00am - 7.00pm
Wed 31st December	9.00am - 5.00pm
New Year's Day	11.00am - 5.00pm
Fri 2nd January	9.00am - 7.00pm

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Toddlers and kids



Feel the force: Star Wars figures have proved popular for a generation

Star Wars Clone Wars Figures RRP £7.99

In a galaxy far, far away, well actually probably just dad's childhood, these toys have come back with a vengeance. Far removed from the days of stiff limbs and joints, the new generation of Star Wars toys are something both dad and child will love.

Suitable for children aged four years and older. Available from hasbrotoyshop.co.uk



Trot along: My Little Pony toys are always a festive hit

My Little Pony Sweetie Belle's Night Time Party RRP £9.99

Little girls should get ready for a pony-rific slumber party. The My Little Pony figure can be dressed up in her pyjamas and bunny slippers.

The unicorn pony figure is

ready to rock the night away with her boom box, get her flowing purple hair styled and then set in her towel wrap and even serve her pepperoni pizza.

Suitable for children aged three years and over. Available from hasbrotoyshop.co.uk

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Your Local Guardian

Leaders send open letter to Chancellor

by PAUL CAHALAN

pcahalan@london.newsquest.co.uk

Business leaders have written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to urge him to act now to help struggling south London businesses through the next few months.

The leaders of all of south London's business chambers, which cover an area comprising some 112,000 firms, said although the financial crisis is "top of the priority list" for the Government, more intervention was needed to help businesses operating at a local level.

Their open letter to Alistair Darling praised the Government for acting quickly to reduce interest rates and VAT, but said: "The challenges that remain are that real borrowing costs remain high, with businesses paying on average about 7 per cent interest.

"In addition, the ability to raise capital or even continue with existing overdraft arrangements is becoming more, not less, difficult.

"Finally, all the business support that has been announced is passive and reliant on the business seeking help rather than being active and flexible.

"They fail to deliver what businesses really need, which is flexible, direct support, advice and guidance, delivered to meet their needs."



Action: Peter Pledger sent the letter on behalf of the chambers

Deadlinepix CR20398

The letter went on to explain where practical intervention could be given immediately.

It called for existing borrowing arrangements to be protected, assurances that new credit would be accessible and for a reduction in employers' national insurance.

Peter Pledger, chief executive of South London Business, which sent the letter on behalf of the chambers, said: "It is critical the

Government now makes changes at local level. We have had the big announcements but that has not yet filtered through to many south London businesses which need help now, not in three months' time."

Is Boris Johnson doing enough to help businesses through the current crisis? Let us know your thoughts at yourlocalguardian.co.uk/listentobusiness

Celsius turn up the heat to celebrate club's first birthday

An invitation-only club for top business leaders in south London has celebrated its first birthday.

Celsius, which was set up by South London Business, held an event at HSBC's Canary Wharf headquarters, where the bank's chief economist Dennis Turner told businesses not to panic in the face of a recession.

He said: "We believe this will be what we call a V-shaped recession. Quickly in and quickly out.

"This Government has acted early

and decisively on the growing situation."

Celsius provides networking opportunities for 100 businesses south of the river, and members include the UK arm of Russian gas industry firm Gazprom, the O2 arena and the Brit Oval.

Chairman of Celsius, and regional director of HSBC, Carol Bagnald said the group's purpose was "make some noise to make sure south London was known".

Business group calls for more support for disabled start-ups

More disabled people should be given the support to start their own business as part of current welfare reform proposals, according to the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB).

A survey of 8,700 FSB members showed 16.5 per cent of disabled people wanted to start their own business due to difficulties in finding employment.

Derek Williamson, north Surrey FSB chairman, said: "The FSB wants to see more disabled people not only in work but creating businesses and jobs.

"The Government should specifically look at making access to funding for people with disabilities who want to start



south london business Your Local Guardian

their own business a priority.

"They should think through how to support aspirations to self employment when reforming the current welfare system."



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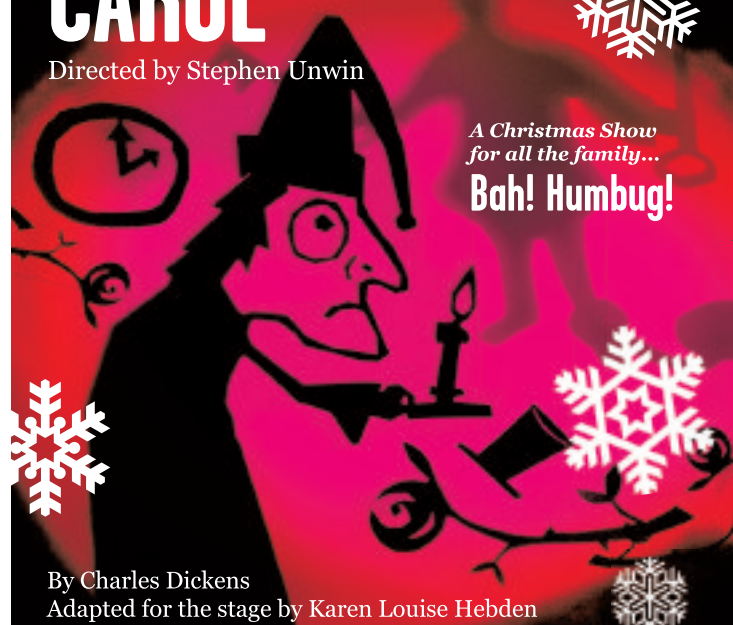
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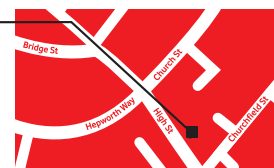
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Next week, your local Guardian will not be dropping on your doormat. As it's Christmas we've decided to give all our loyal paper boys and girls some well deserved time off.

But have no fear, you can still find a complete local Guardian with a round-up of the entire year's local top news stories plus emergency numbers for the holiday season. Most importantly, you'll find the fourth and final part of our 'Win a £1,000' competition.

So transport yourself from your draughty front doormat and head for your mousemat and log-on to our website below.

There, you will find an electronic version of your local paper.

To enter our competition to win shopping vouchers worth £1,000, all you need to do is answer the three

simple questions shown here in this advertisement plus the final one on our website and you're in with a chance of winning some 'guilt-free' shopping in the new year sales.

So here are the three questions.

Who is supposed to bring presents on Christmas Eve.

Is it Mother or Father Christmas?

The question last week was ...

What is the special name given to the day after Christmas Day?

And the one the week before ...

What date does Christmas Day fall on each year?

If you know the answers to these three questions, you've only one more step to take to get you on the way to possibly winning the £1,000 prize. Turn over a new leaf next week and visit your local Guardian website shown below.

Kingston
Guardian.co.uk

Your last chance to turn over a new leaf this Christmas and win £1,000

www.kingstonguardian.co.uk/eedition

If you can't wait until Christmas week, you could always take a sneak look at or e-edition today.

Planning to **park in Kingston** this Christmas?

On Street Parking

Good news for residents who have family and friends visiting: non-permit holders can park in permit holder parking bays for free on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Please be aware that parking controls in Kingston Town Centre will apply on Sundays and on New Year's Day.

Opening Hours for Council Car Parks and the Parking Shop:

	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Boxing Day	New Years Eve	New Years Day
Cattle Market Car Park	7:00am - Midnight	Closed	10am-Midnight	7:00am - Midnight	10:00am - Midnight
The Bittoms Car Park	7:45am - 7:00pm	Closed	Closed	7:45am - 7:00pm	10:00am - 6:00pm
The Rose Car Park	7:30am - Midnight	Closed	Closed	7:30am - Midnight	10:00am - Midnight
The Parking Shop	8:45am - 3:00pm	Closed	Closed	8:45am - 3:00pm	Closed

Other Car Parks will be open as usual on all other days. Ashdown Road and Canbury Place Car Parks will be open throughout the period. Opening hours and parking charge information is available at:

www.kingston.gov.uk/parking_information

The Parking Shop, located inside Guildhall 2, High Street, Kingston upon Thames, will be open Monday to Saturday, 8:45am to 5:30 pm on all other days.

Penalty Charge Notice payments can be made at any time by telephone or the internet using:
0845 359 1111 or www.kingston.gov.uk/pay_it

For further information please call 020 8547 6165 or visit
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Now, to reduce excess stock and improve our West Byfleet, Ashford and East Molesey stores for the future, we will now proceed with a massive showroom and warehouse clearing and remerchandising project! We must clear these three stores without delay, so that the work may commence. **The showrooms are presently closed while we reduce prices and prepare the displays for the launch of our £985,000 'CLEARING~THE~ SHOWROOMS' GRAND FURNITURE SALE.**

We must urgently sell all our beds, bedroom furniture and accessories including: divan beds, memory foam beds, mattresses, cast metal bedsteads, solid wood bedframes, guest beds, robes, dressing & bedside tables, chests, headboards, pillows, duvets, mattress toppers, pictures, mirrors, etc.
Absolutely Everything Must Be Sold Out a.s.a.p!

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RRP £1100

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JAY-BE
4'6" Brooklyn
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Oak frame

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RELYON
5'0" Purity 1000
spring mattress

RRP £699

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4'6" Visco Pocket
1000 4 drawer Divan
set

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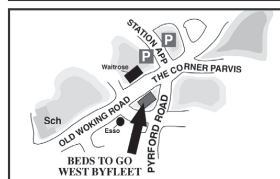
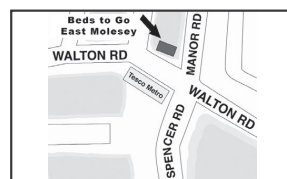
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Christmas is always surrounded by expectation, and for many of us the stress can prove too much. ELEANOR HARDING reports on how to beat the winter blues

Christmas crisis

Chris Black has volunteered for the Putney Samaritans almost every Christmas for the past 10 years.

While revellers drink at pubs and parties, Chris and his colleagues spend their days and nights listening to those not having such a great time.

He says: "Some people are on their own and it would be nice if they could be with family and friends.

"Others are the opposite. They wish they were on their own.

"There might be family problems which come into sharper focus when everyone meets up.

"This Christmas we are seeing people with many worries.

"People feel they have to spend a lot of money, but they can't afford to.

"We get moving calls where people are at their wit's end. It feels good to help them."

Christmas is an emotional time, and it can push people to the brink.

Figures show divorce rates increase by 50 per cent after Christmas, when couples are forced to spend more time together.

In the midst of the credit crunch, professionals expect to see more families sinking into debt after spending on presents.

National statistics show that debt is strongly linked to mental health problems.

In a study conducted by mental health charity Mind, just after last Christmas, 40 per cent of respondents felt more stressed and anxious and 25 per cent had increased feelings of depression.

But there are ways of reducing the crisis at Christmas, as Dr Chris Hall, clinical psychologist at South West London and St George's Mental Health Trust, explains.

He says: "After Christmas, you'll have an increase in referrals to our team.

"Look after yourself as best as you can, and think about looking after others and giving to others.

"But if you are struggling, talk to someone.

"Give some time to visit your GP, or call the Samaritans."



Not so jolly: Christmas can be hard as the pressures mount up

Top 10 tips

□ Manage your stress by minimising what you have to do. If you say yes to one thing, say no to something else.

□ Try to relax using the seven-11 breathing exercise. Breathe in for seven counts and out for 11.

□ When dealing with frustration, think of the serenity prayer: Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.

□ Keep positive and connected with friends and family. Research has shown helping others can make you feel good too.

□ To lift your mood at the end of each day, think of three positive things which have happened.

□ Savour the moment. Christmas is meant to be a happy time, so don't spoil it by thinking too much about the future.

□ Don't be a perfectionist with bargain-hunting and present-buying. Research shows those who try to maximise every opportunity are less happy.

□ If you are worried about debts visit the citizen's advice bureau.

□ Don't compare yourself or your family to other people. Be satisfied with what you have got.

□ Call the Samaritans on 08457 909090 for a listening ear.



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Save Double
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Was £998. Sale price £749.

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100%

LEATHER



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Save £499 on the Teo 3 seater leather sofa, in a **choice of 43 colours at no extra cost**. **2 accent cushions FREE**. Matching 2 seater sofa, chair, manual or power recliner chair and storage footstool also available with double savings.



Save Double
£299
Was £598. Sale price £449.

Save £299 on the Bella 3 seater sofa, in a **choice of colours at no extra cost**. Accent cushions optional extra. Matching 2 seater sofa, 2 seater sofaset, chair and storage footstool also available with double savings.

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A TIME FOR GIVING



Kingston residents can recycle a great deal of the waste that is produced over the festive period.

Christmas is a time for giving, but make sure you give back to the environment rather than that greedy old bin. So much of the waste we create over the Christmas period can be easily recycled in Kingston, from food leftovers to wrapping paper. Here's how:

- Paper, plastic bottles, glass bottles & jars, cans & tins, liquid food & drink cartons, and household batteries in your green box

- Cardboard and card (including Christmas cards) in your white reusable bag
- Left over food and peelings in your brown container.

Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, is backing the Recycle for London campaign by encouraging Londoners to consider their recycling habits over Christmas. "Christmas and New Year is a busy time for everyone but it is a fantastic opportunity to recycle. What

with wrapping paper, bottles, trees and so on, there is more waste suitable for recycling over the festive period than at any other time of year. So here's to a 'green' Christmas in 2008 and I urge the folks in Kingston to do their bit to help us achieve a record recycling rate."

FIND OUT HOW

If you have any questions, just visit www.kingston.gov.uk/recycling or call 020 8547 5560.

What should I do with my Christmas tree?

London alone will get through just under a million Christmas trees this year and many are thrown away rather than recycled. Make sure you're not adding to the burden by

Either:
Putting your tree out for collection – Kingston Council will be operating a free Christmas Tree collection service in the first two weeks of January. Simply place your tree out for collection on the day your landfill waste is collected. Your tree will be taken away for composting.

Or:
Taking your tree to the Villiers Road Household Reuse and Recycling Centre.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS COLLECTION DAYS FOR KINGSTON

Normal Collection Day	Will instead be collected on
Monday 29 December	Tue 30 Dec/Tue 6 Jan
Tuesday 30 December	Wed 31 Dec/Wed 7 Jan
Wednesday 31 December	Fri 2 Jan/Fri 8 Jan
Thursday 25 December	Sat 27 Dec/Sat 3 Jan/Fri 9 Jan
Friday 26 December	Mon 29 Dec/Mon 5 Jan/Sat 10 Jan
Normal collection days will resume from Monday 12 January	



YOU DON'T NEED THIS.



KINGSTON STAY STRONG

London recycles 20% of its rubbish, but when you consider that around 60% of what we feed our black bins could be recycled, it's easy to see how we could all do more. Visit recycleforlondon.com for more details.

JUST ONE LITTLE BOTTLE? I WON'T TELL.



Starve your bin  **recycle for London**

S3 support

After campaigning by Kingston Area Travellers' Association for many years, Transport for London (TfL) is proposing to extend route S3 (Sutton to Worcester Park) to Malden Manor via Manor Drive.

This will be a boon to residents who don't drive and provides a service to Malden Parochial School and Richard Challoner School at Malden Manor.

Although approved of by TfL, RBK and the Metropolitan Police, some car owners oppose it. Objections seem to be that the school-run blocks traffic and fire engines. The use of an extended S3 will lessen the dreaded school-run along with its congestion. It will lessen the practice of kids crossing the road at blind spots caused by, er, the school-run.

At present, people trying to get between Malden Manor and Worcester Park have to get two buses (K1 and 213) by changing near the A3 bypass, thus paying two fares with much inconvenience. The S3, however, will be a quick and convenient journey, linking with the K1 (Kingston-Tolworth-Malden). So, 10 years after losing the K9 link along Manor Drive, we are urging all bus users to add their support to the S3 by writing to TfL by January 9.

Please write to: Freepost RRZL-CUSK-AAEE, Customer Services, TfL, London SE1 8NJ, or visit tfl.gov.uk/busrouteconsultation

TONY ADAMS
Chairman
Kingston Area Travellers'
Association

The T.Rex files

I am writing a book about the singers, musicians, and producers who contributed to the music of rock star Marc Bolan. I am seeking information about Leatherhead band John's Children, plus their manager/producer Simon Napier-Bell.

Bolan was in this band for a few months in 1967 and frequently played with them at the John's Children Club, AKA the Bluesette Club and formerly the Chuck Wagon, at 22a Bridge Street, Leatherhead.

If any of your readers have any information, I would be interested to hear their memories or anecdotes.

I would also like to hear from anybody else who knew band members Andy Ellison, Chris Townson and John Hewlett or Napier-Bell in those days.

I will acknowledge in the book all those who provide information I can use. Please write to me at the address below.

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TN29 9WJ

Bah humbug to the banks with no support for Rose

Thank goodness that Kingston Council, along with Kingston University and local businesses, such as John Lewis and Bentalls, supported the initial concept of creating a 21st century theatre in the heart of the borough. Shakespeare would have loved it.

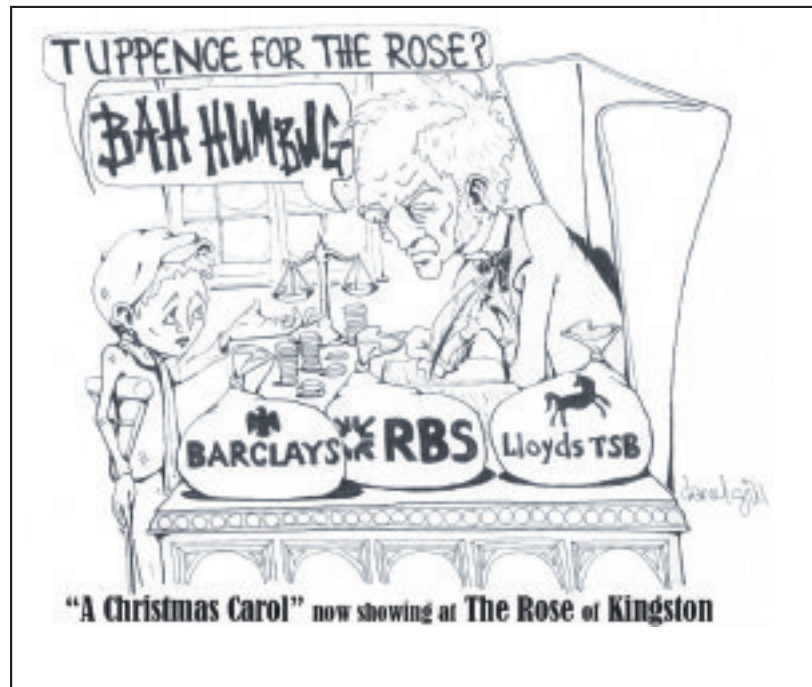
By continuing to give the Rose some necessary financial support, these institutions are making it possible for the residents of Kingston to have local access to one of the finest theatres in Britain.

Although it is expected of local politicians to split hairs in their pursuit of political advantage, I was surprised and sad that Kingston party politics have been so heated over the £7 per year (2p per day) proposal to "buy" services from the theatre; especially when their leaders in Westminster are dishing out billions to the high street banks.

These same banks, which took hundreds of thousands, if not millions, in profits each year out of the Kingston economy before the credit crunch, have (with one exception) still not supported the Rose.

I would have thought that the least they should have done was to have paid a few pounds to have their logos painted on Scrooge's desk during the current production of A Christmas Carol. Bah humbug!

To illustrate the point I en-



close for your readers' amusement a cartoon by Daniel Gill, a local artist (pictured).

To continue our support for the Rose, Frère Jacques is promoting new membership of The Friends of The Rose, by

offering an extraordinary value deal to new members and I urge local businesses and your readers to join Friends of the Rose, whether or not they wish to take advantage of our offer.

Frère Jacques is delighted both to support the Rose and to show it.

JOHN D SCOTT
Managing director
Frère Jacques

Government must stop abuse to adults too

With the all the attention that is being given to the tragic death of Baby P, and the awful failings of the child protection system, it is easy to think that this is the only area where abuse has continued without robust intervention. But nothing could be further from the truth.

Every day, adults are also experiencing horrendous abuses – a Government-sponsored report last year conservatively estimated up to 342,000 older

people each year suffer such abuse – and in some cases they die horrible deaths.

Most people would be unaware that the law, under which those responsible for the death of Baby P were charged, was drafted as a consequence of the abuse of 78-year-old Margaret Panting.

She died covered in bruises and cuts, which the coroner said could have been made only with something like a razor blade.

But, sadly, we do not see our Government rushing to the defence of adults in such cases.

No Government minister has demanded urgent reviews or reports. And no new laws were rapidly brought in as a result.

Last October, the Government launched a consultation process on how effective guidance systems (called No Secrets) have been in protecting adults at risk of abuse. They did so because of the increasing demands from those who

work in this field for radical change.

But the public can be forgiven for not knowing this is happening, because there has been scant promotion of the exercise, which will conclude at the end of January 2009.

Further information can be found on our website at elderabuse.org.uk

GARY FITZGERALD
Chief executive,
Action on Elder Abuse

A change of address

First it was Herne Road, then Mayfair Close and now Egmont Avenue, all wanting to be reclassified from Tolworth to Surbiton.

Who will be the next to jump on the bandwagon?

Tolworth is part of the Surbiton postal district, so all Tolworth residents can use Surbiton in their address.

Until a few years ago, all three roads mentioned were in the Tolworth West ward of the Tolworth

neighbourhood. Residents can look on the side of their recycling bins and see 'Tolworth' printed on the side. When the new wards were formed, they took no account of historical boundaries and part of Tolworth ended up in Surbiton Hill ward. I think the ward boundaries should be changed, not the historical boundary.

NAME AND ADDRESS
SUPPLIED

Luvvies should play away

If I go to the cinema, I don't expect Kingston Council taxpayers to subsidise the cost of my ticket. And if I go to a pop concert, I don't expect hard-pressed local citizens to cough up towards the entrance fee.

So why do the luvvies of the Rose Theatre expect us to contribute millions of pounds to subsidise their choice of entertainment? If the Rose Theatre is such a success, how come it would collapse without another in-

jection of our money?

There isn't a shred of evidence to support the claim that Kingston benefits because people go on a spending spree before or after visiting the Rose.

The Lib Dem council thinks that giving further six-figure sums to this ailing theatre is serving the people's best interests during the credit crunch, more fool them.

JEFF WALLDER
Manor Way, Worcester Park

HOT OFF THE WEB...

Read these comments and even more on our website

kingstonguardian.co.uk

Guests pack in to see Rose's Christmas tale

The Rose Theatre's first Christmas production played to a packed house of celebrities and guests for Dickens's A Christmas Carol.

Packed house of celebrities? And the only name mentioned as a guest is a property developer?

Guessing anybody is a celebrity now.

James P, Surbiton

Boris freezes council tax. Will Kingston follow?

Mayor of London Boris Johnson has announced a freeze on his portion of council tax, adding to the political pressure for Liberal Democrat run Kingston Council to follow suit.

Fat chance that the council tax would be frozen, especially as they will need to fund the £600K for The Dozy Theatre!

NKMark, Kingston

Waitrose burns to the ground in Banstead in suspicious fire

Police are treating with suspicion a huge fire that razed Waitrose in Banstead to the ground

I have a photo of Waitrose taken from the same angle as Nicole Courts, but before the fire.

You can see it on the home page of the Banstead History Research Group's website at bansteadhistory.com. Waitrose was built on the site of the old village school in 1990. see also www.bansteadhistory.com/sc_hools_az.html#VILLewis%20Wood

bansteadman, Banstead

I have 13 photographs of Waitrose Banstead the morning after the fire, if you are interested in them.

Jack Wallington, Wallington

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Start message with SLVIEWS (if your phone has a body text or subject space, make sure that keyword is mentioned in both), leave a space and text your comment (up to 160 characters). Send to 80360*

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If you have any green news stories, get in touch with
Alita Howe on **020 8330 9548**
email
ahowe@london.newsquest.co.uk

Top Tip

❑ Did you know over half the adults in the UK feed birds in their garden? Now the winter has well and truly arrived, it is the perfect time to help our feathered friends so that they survive periods of severe weather and keep in good breeding condition for the spring. For tips on what food to provide visit rspb.org.uk/advice/helpingbirds/feeding/index.asp

The Big Picture

A guilt-free green Christmas

Christmas is a time for indulgence. Although there are no quick fixes for the expanded waistline, one way to offset the blues is by having an environmentally-friendly Christmas. JAMES PEPPER tells you how

If you were to leave your Christmas tree lights on for 10 hours a day over the 12 days of Christmas you will have produced enough carbon dioxide to inflate 12 balloons.

To avoid this decorative and environmental catastrophe why not buy energy-saving light bulbs. LED Christmas lights can reduce power consumption and the energy cost by almost 90 per cent. A Wide range is available on the internet.

Every year, we send about 1.7 billion Christmas cards, that is the equivalent of 200,000 trees. One billion of these cards are thrown away. Use recycled cards, make your own or send a text or an email.

It sounds impersonal, but the sentiment is still there, and you can write as much as you want. After Christmas, take your cards to a Woodland Trust recycling point.

Let mother nature decorate your home this year. Instead of wasting money on artificial decorations that don't last five minutes, use organic, recycled or scrap materials, or even make your own. Try using popcorn, cinnamon sticks, bows, pine cones, gingerbread, berry's or dried orange segments.

If you want to capture the more traditional Victorian ambience, try using beeswax, soy or natural vegetable-based candles. These biodegradable and they are smoke free so are more eco-friendly. Paraffin candles are made from petroleum residue so do not do your health or the environment any good.

More than 83 square kilometres of wrapping paper gets binned every year. That is enough paper to wrap up Guernsey. Use recycled wrapping paper, and try to use ribbon or string instead of sticky tape.

Buy ethical Christmas presents. In-

stead of toys made in China how about a pollinating bee log, or a model car that runs on hydrogen fuel cells.

Not everyone gets what they want at Christmas. Recycle your unwanted presents to charities. Local hospitals and hospices are often very pleased to receive unwanted smellies to give to patients. Also try sponsoring an animal or give a membership to a charity or environmental organisation for a Christmas gift.

Miles Owen from ecotopia.co.uk said: "Christmas has become the worst time of year for waste, with many households usually buying too much food, wasting paper on cards and wrapping and, ultimately, wasting money that does not need to be spent."

"Taking time out to think about the environment, and others, at Christmas can prove beneficial both for your conscience and for your wallet – especially during these credit crunching times where people do not have the cash to flash"

Get your Christmas tree from a small-scale sustainable grower, or ensure that the tree has Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) accreditation, you can visit soilassociation.org/christmas for a list of producers.

Also, choose a tree with roots so it can be replanted. If replanting is not an option, most councils run tree recycling schemes. Contact yours or go to letsrecycle.com You could even grow your own.

Although artificial trees last for many years, they are made from metal and derivatives of PVC, which requires large amounts of energy to make, and also creates by-products such as lead, which can be harmful to both the environment and human health.

The average life of an artificial tree is just six years, and they can go on to



Glow: Leaving Christmas lights on is a big contributor to CO₂

pollute a landfill site for many years. Most artificial trees sold in the UK are now made in Taiwan and China and so have additional energy costs including transport.

Real trees are carbon neutral, which means they absorb as much carbon dioxide as they emit when burnt or left to decompose.

Peter Danley, a landscaping expert, said: "One of the biggest misconceptions of the general public still today is that harvesting of Christmas trees is cutting down forests."

"This is not the case. In its afterlife, a natural tree can be reused as mulch."

Batteries are a Christmas essential, however, they contain toxic chemicals and do not biodegrade.

Try going for rechargeable ones instead or you could try a new invention of AA size USB rechargeable batteries. By opening the cap and plugging it into a USB connector, you can recharge them anywhere there is a USB socket.

Ten million turkeys are eaten every Christmas. If you can, try to make sure yours has been reared in humane conditions. Organic turkeys taste better too. Also try to buy Christmas food locally, shopping at farmers markets or buying direct from the farmer is far cheaper than buying organic in the supermarket. Think of the benefits, the taste of chemical-free food, the reduction in food miles and CO₂ emissions, and reduced dependence on oil. Buying locally produced food also boosts rural jobs.

Live a greener life with
www.greenguardian.co.uk



Chipping: Check with your council about Christmas tree recycling

Deadline: NK961

❑ More than 50 years after the FBI launched its most wanted list, the US environmental protection agency has produced an eco version. The agency's criminal investigation division this week listed 23 fugitives accused of eco-crimes ranging from dumping hazardous waste to importing excessively-polluting cars. The list is a "brazen universe of people that are evading the law", an official said.

"They are charged with environmental crimes, and should be brought before the criminal justice system and have their day in court," said the agency's Pete Rosenberg.

Q&A

This is the last Q&A, so this week we are just running the answer to last week's question:

Answer: Greenpeace currently has more than 2.8 Million supporters worldwide.

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Our Services this Christmas

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Ewell Road, Tolworth
020 8399 9550

Wednesday 24 December

9.30am Mass
6.00pm Vigil Mass for Christmas
(Family Mass)
11.30pm Carols followed by
Midnight Mass

Thursday 25 December

8.00am, 9.15am and 11.00am Mass

Friday 26 December

10.00am Feast of Saint Stephen Mass

Saturday 27 December

10.00am Mass-Confessions after Mass
6.30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 28 December

9.00am, 11.00am and 6.00pm
The Holy Family Masses

Parish of St Mark and St. Andrew

Surbiton
020 8390 9129

All services to be held at St Mark's
Church, St Mark's Hill, Church Hill Road
due to restoration work

Sunday 14 December

6.00pm The Parish Carol Service

Sunday 21 December

4.00pm Crib Service

Wednesday 24 December

4.00pm Christingle Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Thursday 25 December

9.00am Early Eucharist
10.15am Eucharist & Carols

St Paul's

280 Hook Road, Hook, Chessington
020 8397 3521
www.stpaulschurchook.org.uk

Sunday 14 December

3.30pm Christingle Service
in aid of The Children's Society

Sunday 21 December

6.30pm Community Carol Service

Wednesday 24 December

3.30pm Children's Crib Service
11.00pm The Midnight Communion
Service

Thursday 25 December

10.00am Family Communion
(a relaxed and informal service for
all ages)

Baptists Together in Surbiton

Oaklands Baptist Church, Langley Road
& Surbiton Baptist Church,
Balaclava Road
www.baptistsinsurbiton.org
020 8390 8817

Sunday 14 December

10.30am Oaklands, All Age Interactive
Nativity Service
6.30pm Balaclava Road: Carols by
Candlelight

Tuesday 16 December

6.00pm Carol Singing at Surbiton Train
Station

Sunday 21 December

6.30pm Oaklands, Carols by Candlelight

Thursday 25 December

10.30am Oaklands, Christmas Day
Celebration

St Matthew's

Kingsdown Road, Surbiton
020 8390 5121
www.st.matthewssurbiton.co.uk

Sunday 21 December

8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Children's Nativity
6.30pm Carol Service

Wednesday 24 December

11.30pm Midnight Communion

Thursday 25 December

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am Christmas Family Service

Sunday 28 December

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Family Communion

Christ Church

Christ Church Road, Surbiton
020 8390 7215

Thursday 18 December

2.45pm Afternoon Carols

Sunday 21 December

10.30am Morning Service
4.00pm & 7.00pm Carols by Candlelight
(creche and activities for children at
4pm Service)

Wednesday 24 December

3.30pm Family Carols
11.15pm Midnight Communion

Thursday 25 December

10.30am All Age Celebration

Surbiton Hill Methodist Church

Ewell Road, Surbiton
020 8390 4598

Sunday 14 December

10.30am Gift Service
6.30pm Worship led by our Choir

Sunday 21 December

10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

Wednesday 24 December

4.00pm Crib Service
11.00pm Midnight Communion

Thursday 25 December

9.30am Family Service

St George's

Hamilton Avenue, Tolworth
020 8397 4294
www.stgeorgestolworth.org

Sunday 21 December

10.00am Family Carol Celebration

Wednesday 24 December

4.00pm Christingle Service
(a service especially for families and
children)

Thursday 25 December

10.00am Family Communion
(a service suitable for all ages)

Sunday 28 December

10.00am Family Communion
(a service suitable for all ages)

Emmanuel

1 Grand Avenue, Berrylands
020 8390 2372

Sunday 21 December

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

Wednesday 24 December

3.30pm Crib Service
(a service specially for young children
and their families followed by mulled
wine and minced pies)
11.15pm Late Night Communion

Thursday 25 December

8.00am Early Morning Communion
10.30am All Age Christmas Praise
followed by pre-booked Christmas Lunch

St Catherine's

100 Leatherhead Road, Chessington
020 8397 3971
www.stcatherineofsiena.org.uk

Sunday 14 December

3.00pm Parish Advent Reconciliation
Service (with individual confession)

Wednesday 24 December

6.00pm Family Vigil Mass of Christmas
with Carols
11.30pm Carols and Readings
12.00am Midnight Mass

Thursday 25 December

8.00am and 10.00am Christmas
Morning Masses with Carols

United Reformed Church

Raeburn Avenue, Tolworth
020 8337 8581

Sunday 21 December

6.30pm Service of Lessons and Carols

Wednesday 24 December

4.00pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Communion

Thursday 25 December

10.30am Family Service

The Community Church

The Assembly Rooms
Maple Road
Surbiton
020 8391 1100
www.community-church.org.uk

Sunday 21 December

4.00pm A Night in Bethlehem
A Dramatic Carol Service and
Presentation of the Nativity

Sunday 28 December

11.00am All Age Celebration

Full details of these Churches and their services can be found at
www.churchestogethersurbiton.org.uk

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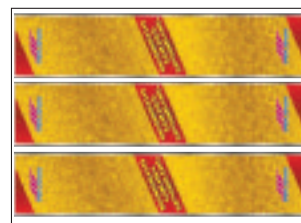
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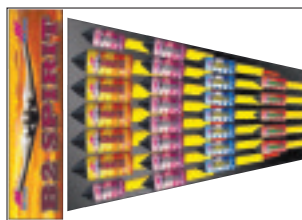
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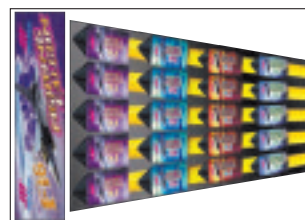
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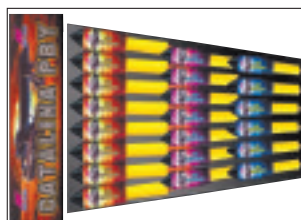
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Leisure

If you have a leisure story, contact us on 020 8330 9581

Listen to what the ghost of Christmas future has to say – see what's on next year at the Rose, page 24



Lyons' den

A cursory glance across the interview pages of any comedy website will often throw up a batch of comics desperate to parade their profundity as a way of showcasing their intellectual prowess.

Sarcastic wit, topical gags, and knowing nods and winks are usually the order of the day, with comedian and audience eager to outdo the other in the art of chin-stroking.

But not Zoe Lyons, who appears as a breath of fresh air when it comes to what is considered funny. She says: "I don't focus on anything important, to be honest, it just tends to be things I have noticed."

"It isn't life-changing but then I think slipping on a banana skin can be just as funny as ripping out the guts of a government and making it amusing."

Lyons is one of these radical career-change types, having undergone the transformation from waitress to fully fledged, award-winning stand-up. But the comic reveals it was a move of desperation, rather than grand design.

Lyons adds: "I waitressed for about four years, then woke up one morning and said, 'Sod this for a game of soldiers. I'm going to try something else,' and did a five-minute slot at an open night."

"It went all right, then I got more and more gigs, and suddenly I was doing five at a time."

"You meet a lot of great comedians who have trained in accountancy or law or whatever and, because they have a background to fall back on, it is difficult to move forward."

I spend a lot of time travelling. You get to know all the stops. Sometimes, it's the crappy service stations when you realise you will have to relent and try the mystery bag that is a Ginsters

COMEDY: Zoe Lyons, Crack Comedy Club

Simon Fitzjohn

"But I literally have nothing – I was a truly awful waitress."

"In the end I was just throwing stuff at people because it was quicker."

Lyons won the 2004 Funny Women competition and has been a hit on the circuit ever since. With resident gigs in Brighton and London, along with regular appearances across the length and breadth of the nation, Lyons is a hardy traveller. And she admits that provides its own problems.

She explains: "I spend a lot of time on my own travelling in the car so there is a lot of morbid introspection going on on the nation's motorways."

"You get to know all the stops and find yourself saying, 'Ooh, I like these services, there's a Marks & Spencer.'"

"Or sometimes it's the crappy service stations, when you realise you will have to relent and try the mystery bag that is a Ginsters sausage roll."

Zoe Lyons, with Tom Wrigglesworth and Tony Law, Crack Comedy Club, December 19, 8pm, £6/£8/£10, call 020 8549 9790.

Look out! Zoe Lyons is coming to the Crack Comedy Club



The week ahead

Going Deutch

Kingston Market Place will resemble a slice of Berlin as the German Christmas Market comes to town.

Expect plenty of food and drink, including bratwurst sausage, along with stalls and plenty of live entertainment. Kingston Market, until December 29, 10am-8pm.

Imran can

The Laughing Horse throws its Crimbo bash with another dazzling line-up of fantastic funnymen. Imran Yusuf, Neil Cole, Wouter Meijis, Paul McCaffrey, Crispin Flintoff, John Sofie and Aaron Rice make up the bill, with Donald Mack and Kevin McCarron as your erstwhile MCs. **Cricketers, December 20, 8.30pm, £4.50/£6, 0791 460295.**

Oh yes we can

Kingston residents can take in a free panto as the Rotunda aims to get everyone in the Christmas spirit. The mini panto will be based on a collection of popular fairy stories and children are welcome to come along and take part by dressing up or simply watch the proceedings unfold. Rotunda, December 21, 1pm, 020 8546 2180.

Let's be Franks

Journalist and musician Alan Franks presents An Evening with... as he rounds up a number of entertaining friends for a night of top-notch talent. Joining Alan will be comedians Owen O'Neill and Tim Whitehead, along with folk artist Patty Vetta. **Ram Jam Club, December 28, 8pm, £5/£6, 020 8541 4328.**

A Simpson New Year

The Ram Jam Club will throw a special New Year's Eve bash with the Steve Simpson Trio providing the entertainment. Guitarist Simpson, who has worked with, among others, Bob Seger, Ry Cooder and Roger Chapman, will be joined by Malcolm Hoskins and Mick Clews. **Ram Jam Club, Kingston, December 31, 8pm, £25 (including buffet), 020 8541 4328.**

For more events turn to page 27

New dimensions

EXHIBITIONS: 2D3D, Stables Gallery

Ben James

Purkiss, from Ham, showcases a recent photographic project documenting

famous British sculptors including Damien Hirst.

Vellacot and Purkiss met Twickenham Rowing Club 10 years ago but this is the first time they have collaborated.

Vellacot trained at the London School of Art and has worked on commissions from the Marquess of Bath and Noel Coward.

Purkiss studied journalism and photography in Germany. Some of her work is displayed in the National Portrait Gallery, Royal Academy of Arts and the Royal Society.

2D-3D, Stables Gallery, Riverside, Twickenham, until January 11, call 028 7083 4006 or visit stablesgallery.co.uk



Making her mark: Avril Vellacot

Sculpture and photography are combined in the latest exhibition at Stables Gallery.

Aptly named 2D-3D, the exhibition combines the works of two local artists, Avril Vellacot and Anne Purkiss. Through different media, the artists focus on portraiture.

Teddington-based sculptor Vellacot uses terracotta alongside wood, plaster and paper to create figurative portraits while

For more theatre, music and comedy visit kingstonguardian.co.uk

Films What's on this week

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (12A): While the original was a product of Cold War paranoia, Scott Derrickson's remake goes green. The hysteria begins when a sphere of light touches down in New York, bringing with it Klaatu (Keanu Reeves), a human embodiment of the collective universe. The visitor warns Secretary of Defence Regina Jackson (Kathy Bates) and the scientific community, led by astrobiologist Helen Benson (Jennifer Connelly), of impending doom. However, the trigger-happy actions of the US military against Klaatu's robot protector, GORT, initiate the countdown to destruction. This remake follows the template of Robert Wise's original and is fast-paced with striking scenes. The only disappointment is GORT, who looks fantastic but is relegated to a minor role. ★★ ★★

TWILIGHT (12A): This adaptation of Stephenie Meyer's best-selling novels is a surprisingly entertaining and sprightly romantic yarn. In a world of teen fantasy, where mortals and vampires live side by side, Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) falls in love with mysterious outsider Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson), a 'good' vampire. Edward must protect Bella from immortal predators. Aside from some cheesy dialogue and several laughable love scenes, this is an enjoyable film. ★★ ★★

THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (U): A visually colourful yet emotionally hollow fable based on the award-winning book by Kate DiCamillo. Every year a new soup is unveiled by royal chef Andre (Kevin Kline) but disaster strikes when an inquisitive rat called Roscuro (Dustin Hoffman) falls into the soup, causing the Queen to die. Consumed by grief, the King outlaws all soup-making and banishes vermin. However, plucky mouse Despereaux (Matthew Broderick) risks everything to save his friend Roscuro. There is little dramatic momentum and the gloomy

characters fail to lift spirits. ★★

INKHEART (PG): Based on the best-selling novel by Cornelia Funke, this is a fantastical family adventure about a secret class – the Silver-tongues – who possess the power to bring books to life. But for every fictional character allowed to leap across the divide, a real person must take their place. Doting father Mo Folchart (Brendan Fraser) has kept a terrible secret from his daughter Meggie (Eliza Bennett) since she was three years old: he is a Silver-tongue and inadvertently sent his beloved wife Teresa (Sienna Guillory) into the pages of a book. When Mo stumbles upon a copy, he finally believes he could be reunited with Teresa only for the past to catch up with him. An action-packed movie with great special effects. ★★ ★★

DEAN SPANLEY (U): Adapted by Alan Sharp from Baron Dunsany's 1936 novella *My Talks With Dean Spanley*, this quixotic shaggy dog story, set in Edwardian England, will warm the cockles of your heart. Henslowe Fisk (Jeremy Northam) takes his cantankerous father Horatio (Peter O'Toole) to a lecture on the transmigration of souls. Sitting in the audience, the two men spy Dean Spanley (Sam Neill), who later reveals a connection to Horatio's beloved dog, Wag. This surreal comedic drama explores the relationships between father and son, master and dog. ★★ ★★

MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG): This colourful CGI sequel cheekily recycles the plot of *The Lion King*. Eric Darnell and Tom McGrath's film strands its menagerie of misfits in the wild, where they discover the courage to reclaim a birthright as king of the jungle. As in the first film, Sacha Baron Cohen merrily scene-steals as a crazy lemur. Kids will squeal at the slapstick but parents and older audiences will have to search much harder for amusement. ★★ ★★

EXHIBITIONS: Tenth Anniversary Show, Fountain Gallery

Simon Fitzjohn

The past, present and future will be the theme for Fountain Gallery in January as the East Molesey venue throws a retrospective exhibition to celebrate its tenth anniversary.

Currently home to 21 members, the showcase will present work from members both new and old, who will prepare for the exhibition by joining forces to repaint the gallery over the winter break.

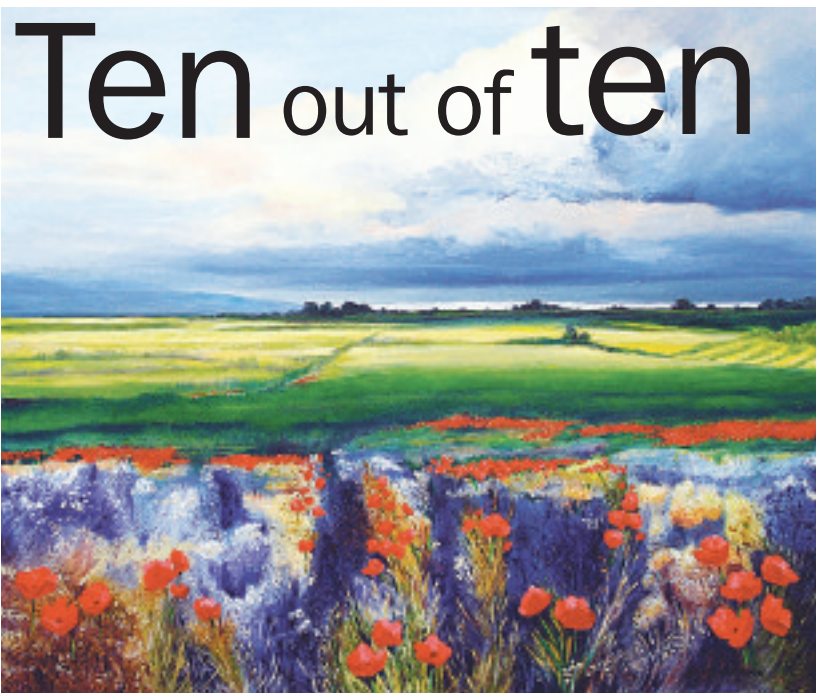
The gallery was the brainchild of Liz Butt and Andrew Blyth, an architect who wanted to further his interest in painting by opening his own gallery.

Blyth explains: "We spent a great deal of time searching for the best location and eventually found a little old junk shop in the Hampton Court riverside area of Bridge Road.

"The road is renowned for its attractive character and browsable shops and it seemed the perfect spot."

Blyth set about converting the dark, cramped space into an inspiring venue for local artists and topped it off with the installation of a fountain, which became both a symbol for the galler; and also the deciding factor in its naming.

Receiving a grand opening from the Lord Mayor in 1999, the Fountain quickly became a popular spot with a reputation for quality art. And the venue



Field of dreams: Poppy by Ged Rumak and, inset, Fused Glass by Jennifer Ham

was to hit the headlines again when it adopted a radical idea to its running.

Blyth adds: "Liz and I hit on the idea of forming an artists' co-operative so I could devote more of my time to painting.

"The gallery has grown in reputation and can now boast being one of the best-known galleries in the area, having this unique co-operative arrangement."

The agreement sees the members sharing management of the venue, with each having their own exhibition slot during the year.

And the fruits of this forward-thinking set-up will be visible for all to see, so head to the gallery and give thanks for one of the area's true gems.

Tenth Anniversary Show, Fountain Gallery, Bridge Road, East Molesey, January 6-18, 11.30-5.30pm, call 020 8941 5865.

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Future's looking Rose-y!

Kingston's Rose Theatre celebrates its one-year anniversary in January and the venue has launched the festivities by announcing a high-profile start to the 2009 season.

With the successful version of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* running until January 3, the theatre then takes a brief hiatus to shake off the winter blues before returning full throttle.

First up will be a night of illusion on January 10, when 12 of the best magicians in Surrey will be showing off their sleight of hand, first in the Culture Café before moving on to a full-blown stage performance.

The following night sees the London Community Gospel Choir take to the stage, for an evening of top-notch singing.

Then things really kick into gear with a trio of heavyweight productions, including the latest offering from theatrical legend and Rose favourite Peter Hall.

It is a step back in time first, though, as January 21 sees *Stop Messing About* – a Kenneth Williams extravaganza over four nights.

An evening of sketches originally written for Williams, Joan Sims, and Hugh Paddock, it is a guaranteed night of laugh-a-minute nostalgia.

Then come the big guns, as Hall brings the English Touring Theatre to town with George Feydeau's classic farce, *Where There's A Will*.

The ETT was responsible for Uncle Vanya, which opened the Rose back in January, and big things will no doubt be expected for this high-profile showcase, which runs from February 4-14.

Last, but by no means least, Shakespeare returns to the Rose as innovative company Propeller throw an ambitious double-header, presenting both *The Merchant of Venice* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Known for their off-centre, original takes on classics, both productions are events not to be missed.

Rose Theatre, Kingston, call 0871 230 1552.

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Light fantastic

If success can be earned by the amount of blood, sweat and tears that you pour into your craft, then Jono McCleery could be on the verge of something special.

The Surbiton singer-songwriter is currently doing the rounds as a dual celebration, basking in the glory of releasing his own self-financed debut album, along with his recent signing by Ninja Tunes.

The album, Darkest Light, came into being after McCleery received funds from a cadre of clamouring fans, eager for him to avoid the pitfalls of conforming to a label's wishes.

And the artist himself admits he was surprised by the generosity of his followers, after a fan in the US started the ball rolling.

Jono reveals: "I was expecting it to take a few weeks to raise the money, at best. I was really pleased it happened so quickly, and especially pleased to get the support of some influential people."

That would be BBC DJs Tom Robinson and Fiona Talkington, along with folk artist Vashti Bunyan, who championed McCleery's work from the off.

And it seems as though the hard work is paying off, as not only is Darkest Light receiving some favourable reviews, but cult record label Ninja Tunes have stepped up to the plate and signed McCleery to a deal.

The Surbiton star will hit

GIGS:
Jono McCleery,
Ram Jam Club

Simon Fitzjohn

the studio to prepare fresh material, working alongside electro producer Fybe.

But for McCleery, it will always simply be about the music. He explains: "My

brother Douglas sent me an email recently, after I'd updated him on my progress.

"He said 'Just keep the focus on the music and the writing, in spite of the new environs and the business people - the music got you here and it will continue to sustain you if you honour it. And that is what I intend to do.'"

Ram Jam Club, December 22, 8pm, £5, call 020 8541 4328.



Catch the Tube

Kingston hopefuls Tubelord will round off a mammoth year of touring with a home-town appearance at Fighting Cocks as they prepare to launch their debut album in 2009.

A slog across the nation has seen the band's profile rocket, with spots on Radio 1 and countless magazine features. And now frontman Joseph Prendergast is looking to get back to basics: "I just want to get back in the shed and record. We are aiming to demo around 18 songs by the end of the year and the album released by Easter."

The trio met at Kingston College, where Prendergast, Dave Catmur and Sean Bamberger found their musical tastes

GIGS:
Tubelord,
Fighting Cocks

Simon Fitzjohn

overlapped. Deciding to form a band, it wasn't long before the three-piece were honing their own sound.

Catmur reveals: "We sound a bit like the old Biffy Clyro."

"We grew up listening to alternative records. There is so much music no-one has heard of which Joe uses to write melodies and lyrics."

2008 saw Tubelord team up with fellow local favourites Tellison for a huge tour, and also found time to squeeze in the release of a

500-copy, hand drawn 7in single, I Am Azerrad.

And now the Kingston lads have their sights set on an even bigger 2009, with the album release high on the agenda.

And, if Prendergast gets his way, a pretty unusual tour could be on the cards.

Joe adds: "We are trying to book gigs and tour our way to Baghdad."

"Although five or six white British kids heading to Iraq is probably not too clever an idea."

"But to break into the Baghdad metal scene would be a huge achievement though!"

Fighting Cocks,
Kingston, December 27,
8pm, 020 8974 6469.



thursday, december 18

EVENTS
Pub Quiz. £4 per team. 8pm. The Waggon and Horses, 1 Surbiton Hill Road, Surbiton. 020 8390 0211. info@waggononline.com
GIGS
Qtone. 8pm. The Fighting Cocks, 56 London Road, Kingston. 020 8546 5174.
Paul McLoughlin Quartet. Doors 7pm. 8.30pm. The Ram Jam Club, behind the Grey Horse, 46 Richmond Road, Kingston. £8. 020 8541 4328. grey-horse.co.uk
Robin Bibi. Rock and blues acoustic artists. 8.30pm. Brave New World, 22 Berrylands Road, Surbiton. Free. 020 8399 0200.
THEATRE
A Christmas Carol. Until Jan 3. 7.30pm. Rose Theatre, 24-26 High Street, Kingston. £7-£29.50. 0871 230 1552. rosetheatrekingston.org

friday, december 19

COMEDY
The Crack Comedy Club. Doors 7pm. Zoe Lyons, Tom Wrigglesworth and Tony Law. Resident MC Erich McElroy. 8pm. The Grey Horse, 46 Richmond Road, Kingston. £10 (£8 members, £6 students/conc). 020 8549 9790. crackcomedy.com
CONCERTS
Treble Clef Ladies' Choir. With mulled wine and mince pies. 7.30pm. St James' Church, Church Street, Weybridge. £6 door. 01372 200615.
Wey Voices Christmas Concert. Traditional and up-tempo Christmas carols, a Russian and a gospel-style carol. Torches by Joubert will also be performed and solos and duets. Refreshments will follow. 7.45pm. Weybridge Methodist Church, Heath Road, Weybridge. Collection for Sam Beare Hospice and restoration. 01932 857529.
The Ian Engelmann Singers' Christmas concert. 7.45pm. St Mary Otlands, Otlands Avenue, Weybridge. 01483 281520. iesingers.org

EVENTS
Eden Craft & Gift Fair. Until Dec 24. 9.30am-5.30pm (Sun 10am-5pm) Until 7pm Thurs. All Saints' Church, Wood Street, Kingston. 020 8788 4434.
German Christmas Market. Traditional crafts and food. Every Thurs and Sun - carol singing, bands and angels. Until Dec 29. 10am-8pm. Market Place, Kingston. 020 8547 5757.
GIGS
Omega 3. Ram Folk Club. Clive Harvey and Derek Pearce, founder members of Roaring Jelly. 8pm. Foley Arms Pub, Hare Lane Claygate, Esher. £9 members (£11). 020 8686 9421. theramclub.co.uk

sunday, december 21

THEATRE
The Night Before Christmas. Until Dec 24. Every day except Dec 15. Times vary. Magical storytelling adventure for children with sing-along and the chance to meet Father Christmas. 9.45am. Rose Theatre, 24-26 High Street, Kingston. £9, £6 children. 0871 230 1552. rosetheatrekingston.org
COMEDY
Laughing Horse. Doors 8pm. Kevin McCarron, Imran Yusuf, Neil Cole, Wouter Meijis, Paul McCaffrey, Crispin Flintoff, John Sofie, Aaron Rice, Kevin McCarron and host Donald Mack. 8.30pm. The Cricketers, 20 Fairfield South, Kingston. £6 (£4.50). 07913 460295. laughinghorsecomedy.co.uk
CONCERTS
Articulate Music in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust. Edgington

Brass Quartet, Souled-Out Function Band, and Articulate Jazz. Communal carol singing at 3.30pm. 11am. Eden Walk Shopping Centre, Kingston. info@edenwalkshopping.co.uk
Local School Choirs. Children singing carols, the Choir of the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court. 12.30pm. John Lewis, Wood Street, Kingston. 020 8547 3000.
Christmas Concert, Thames Youth Orchestra, Choir of All Saints Kingston. Including Wagner - Siegfried Idyll, carols for audience, choir and orchestra. 7.30pm. All Saints' Parish Church, Market Place, Kingston.

EVENTS
Hampton Court Ice Rink. Booking advisable. 10am. Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey. £10-£11.50 (£8-£9, £7.50-£8 U16s). 0844 4124640. hamptoncourtcicerink.com
Cirque Normandie. Le Spectacle magnifique. Winter circus. Times and days vary. Chessington Garden Centre, Leatherhead Road. £7. 01372 725638. chessington-gardencentre.co.uk
Tiny Seeds Music. Rhymes, songs, percussion instruments and stories. 9.30am. Graham Spicer Infirmary, 15 Duke's Avenue, New Malden. Free trial. 07954 376660. tinyseedsmusic@blueyonder.co.uk

EXHIBITIONS
Just a Moment: Photographs by Stuart Heydinger. Until Jan 10. 10am. Kingston Museum, Wheatfield Way. £1, U16s free. 020 8547 6460. kingstonsmuseum@rbk.kingston.gov.uk
GIGS
Kingsmeadow Live Christmas Party featuring Skalectrix! DJs spinning bluebeat, ska, two-tone faves, 60s soul, power pop and new wave. 8pm. Kingsmeadow Stadium, Jack Goodchild Way, 422a Kingston Road, Kingston. £15 (incl dinner). 020 8547 3335. kingsmeadowlive.com
Dolittle and Webblefish. Featuring Ange Dolittle, former lead singer in EAT, We Know Where You Live, and Big Yoga Muffin. Also Mr G on guitar and Rich on bass. 8pm. Fighting Cocks, 56 London Road, Kingston. 020 8546 5174.

Christmas party with Good Men In The Jungle. With Ian Hunt. Incl lovely buffet. Tickets at pub. 8.30pm. The Ram Jam Club, 46 Richmond Road, Kingston. £15. 020 8541 4328. grey-horse.co.uk

CONCERTS
Borough Brass Band. Noon. John Lewis, Wood Street, Kingston. 020 8547 3000.
GIGS
Tony Heiberg Quartet. 8pm. The Kingston Gate, 204 London Road. Free. 020 8546 4840.
Open Mic with Jim Hobbs. 8pm. Brave New World, 22 Berrylands Road, Surbiton. Free. 020 8399 0200.
Danny Fontaine and The Horns of Fury. With a full-frontal horn assault, skiffle meets ska and punk. 8pm. The Fighting Cocks, 56 London Road, Kingston. 020 8546 5174.
Unplugged: Uncorked Christmas Special. Acoustic singalong. 8.30pm. The Ram Jam Club, 46 Richmond Road, Kingston. Free. 020 8541

4328. grey-horse.co.uk
PANTOMIME
Mini Pantomime. Based on popular fairy stories. Children can dress up as a princess or wicked witch, or just watch the performance. 1pm. The Rotunda, Clarence Street, Kingston. 020 8546 2180. kingstonfirst.co.uk

monday, december 22

EVENTS
Balloon Modeller/Entertainer. 10.30am. John Lewis, Wood Street, Kingston. 020 8547 3000.
COMEDY
Outside The Box. 7.45pm. Lucy Porter, Ben Norris, Dylan Bray, Maff Brown, Carl Donnelly. Fighting Cocks, 56 London Road, Kingston. £8 (£7/£4). 07973 783339.
GIGS
Jam-Pact. 8.30pm. The Cardinal Wolsey, The Green, Hampton Court Road, East Molesey. Free. info@jam-pact.com
Jono McCleery Band. 8pm. The Ram Jam Club, 46 Richmond Road, Kingston. £5. 020 8541 4328. grey-horse.co.uk

wednesday, december 24

CONCERTS
Carol-Singing for Children. 5.30pm. All Saints' Church, Wood Street, Kingston.
EXHIBITIONS
Janeau Projects - The Principalities. Until Feb. Tues-Fri noon to 6pm, Sat noon to 4pm. Performances on different stages. Noon. Kingston University, Knights Park. Free. stanleypickergallery.org
GIGS
Jam with the Andy Cortes Band. 8.45pm. The Grey Horse, 46 Richmond Road, Kingston. Free. 020 8541 4328. grey-horse.co.uk
Jam Pact Christmas Party. Ed Hudson, Tony Chick, Mark Zaigbass. 9pm. Percy Lambert, 2 High Street, Weybridge. Free. 01932 828 435. mspace.com/edhudsonband

tuesday, december 23

EVENTS
Father Christmas. 10.30am. John Lewis, Wood Street, Kingston. 020 8547 3000.
EXHIBITIONS
Group Christmas. Until Dec 24. Closed Mon. 11.30am. Fountain Gallery, 26 Bridge Road, Hampton Court, East Molesey. Free. 020 8941 5865. fountaingallery.co.uk
GIGS
Kitsch Lounge Riot. Joe Stilgoe

YOUR EVENT could appear HERE
Fill in a form at kingstonguardian.co.uk/events

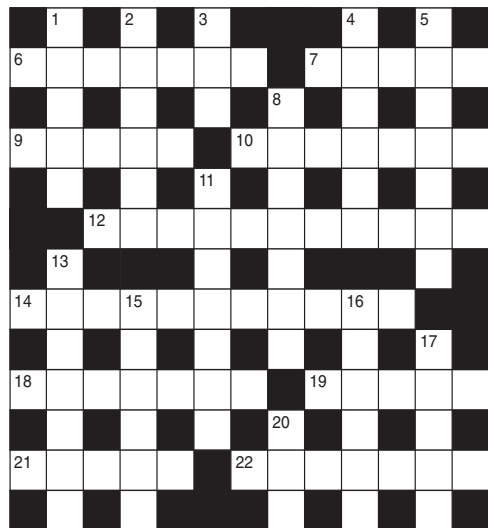


and stars from the world of sport, entertainment and TV. 7.30pm. Bosco Lounge, 9 St Mark's Hill, Surbiton. £40, three-course meal and live entertainment. 020 83395720. klr@hotelbosco.co.uk

wednesday, december 24

CONCERTS
Carol-Singing for Children. 5.30pm. All Saints' Church, Wood Street, Kingston.
EXHIBITIONS
Janeau Projects - The Principalities. Until Feb. Tues-Fri noon to 6pm, Sat noon to 4pm. Performances on different stages. Noon. Kingston University, Knights Park. Free. stanleypickergallery.org
GIGS
Jam with the Andy Cortes Band. 8.45pm. The Grey Horse, 46 Richmond Road, Kingston. Free. 020 8541 4328. grey-horse.co.uk
Jam Pact Christmas Party. Ed Hudson, Tony Chick, Mark Zaigbass. 9pm. Percy Lambert, 2 High Street, Weybridge. Free. 01932 828 435. mspace.com/edhudsonband

Quick Crossword



- | ACROSS | DOWN |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 6. Mistake (7) | 1. Inundate (5) |
| 7. Danger (5) | 2. Whole (6) |
| 9. Subject (5) | 3. Favourite (3) |
| 10. Stranded (7) | 4. Amend (6) |
| 12. Last but one (11) | 5. High office (7) |
| 14. End (11) | 8. Stir (7) |
| 18. Flagrant (7) | 11. Corner (7) |
| 19. Swift (5) | 13. Harangue (7) |
| 21. Scriptures (5) | 15. Spirit (6) |
| 22. Land (7) | 16. Rectangular (6) |
| | 17. Jocund (5) |
| | 20. Morass (3) |

Last Week's solution:

Across: 1 Cadaverous; 7 React; 8 Coerced; 10 Feminine; 11 Pass; 13 Relate; 15 Lean-to; 17 Each; 18 Untoward; 21 Tensile; 22 Drain; 23 Repentance.
Down: 1 Charm; 2 Detonate; 3 Vacant; 4 Reel; 5 Unchain; 6 Preferment; 9 Discordant; 12 Beholden; 14 Licence; 16 Intent; 19 Abate; 20 Rile.

family notices
Tel: 020 8330 9999



Obituary Notice

MICKEY McCARTER
Adored son and brother who sadly passed away on 14th December 2008.



Church service at St Peter's Church, Norbiton on Monday 22nd December at 10.45am, and then at Kingston Crematorium at 11.40am

Floral tributes, or donations payable to Dysart School; to Frederick Paine Funeral Directors, 29 Coombe Road, Kingston.

DUNCAN HUNTER
Peacefully at home 6th December 2008.
Funeral Service 23rd December, 1.00pm, All Saints Church, Weston Green.
Donations Macmillan Cancer Support or Princes Alice Hospice. Enquiries to Lodge Brothers, Thames Ditton. 020 8398 4586

got an announcement to make
Call Classified on 020 8330 9999



JOHN WHITE (PEDDLER)
Sadly passed away on Saturday 6th 2008, aged 68. Sadly missed by family friends. Funeral has taken place. Any enquiries to: Alan Greenwood and Sons 020 8546 3960


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Kingston-upon-Thames 020 8549 9493
175-177 King's Road. Part time opening 10am-2pm
New Malden 020 8949 4475
89 High Street
Raynes Park 020 8947 6228
2 Lambton Road
Sunbury 01932 780287
39 The Parade
Surbiton 020 8399 3920
8/10 St James Road
Whitton 020 8894 6792
58 High Street

In Memoriam

'BOB'
DERYCK ROBERT COLWELL
17/12/1941 - 10/03/2006

I sigh for you
I cry for you
I live for you
I'd die for you
Surely god's biggest mistake was taking you





You're always there never forgotten if only to find that stairway to heaven

My dad My saviour My one and all
My laughter My happiness They took it all
losing you being left only to fall
never to be sure of true loves cause

Our family man Dad was taken away
We did no crime but are made to pay
Dad was our laughter he brightened our day
Now left with sorrow as you lead him away

Now mum has been left without her partner
having taken away her happiness & her laughter
Mum had happiness with dad she had it all
for what reason to take this, what reason at all

Loving you more everyday if possible
Your Mandy, Steve & doting wife Dorothy,
Kylie, Mark, Sophie, Kenny, Maddie, & Jodie
x x x





New Malden £290,000

- A 3 bedroom end of terrace house
- Fitted kitchen, with scope to extend
- D/G, GCH, OSP
- Very close to BR St. & High Street
- Family bathroom
- No onward chain



New Malden £249,950

- Charming end of terrace house
- Two double bedrooms
- Spacious lounge & dining room
- Fitted kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Downstairs cloakroom
- D/G, GCH, OSP & garage
- No onward chain



TEL: 020 8942 3579



Kingston £3,000 pcm

- A luxury four bed detached house
- A spacious through inge with wood floor
- Large conservatory
- Modernised kitchen
- Downstairs toilet
- Master bedroom with en-suite
- Two family bathrm
- D/G, GCH, OSP & double garage



Kingston £2,999 pcm

- A luxurious 4 bed detached house
- Located in Coombe Hill private road
- Very modernised kit
- Downstairs toilet
- Master bedroom with en-suite
- Family bathroom
- D/G, GCH, OSP & Double garage
- Unfurnished



Kingston £2,200 pcm

- A 5/6 bed town-house in Kingston
- Very modernised kitchen
- Master bedroom with en-suite
- Downstairs toilet
- Rear garden
- D/G, GCH, OSP
- Close to BR St.
- Part furnished
- Available now



New Malden £1,700 pcm

- A three bedroom detached house
- Large lounge and dining room
- Very modernised kit
- Facilities rm & Gge
- Downstairs toilet
- Family bathroom
- D/G, GCH, OSP
- Part furnished
- Close to BR St.
- Avail End of Dec.



Berrylands £1,600 pcm

- A four bedroom semi detached house in Berrylands
- Spacious through inge & dining room
- Downstairs toilet
- Modernised kitchen
- Three double and one single bedroom
- Brand new family bathroom
- D/T, GCH, OSP



Surbiton £1,600 pcm

- A beautiful three bedroom bungalow
- Spacious lounge
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Master bedroom with en-suite
- Family bathroom
- Garage
- D/G, GCH, OSP
- Available now



Kingston £1,550 pcm

- Newly refurb three bed terraced house
- Spacious through inge with wood floor
- Two double and one single bedroom
- Brand new kitchen
- Downstairs toilet
- Family bathroom
- D/G, GCH
- 2 mins Norbiton St. and Kingston Hosp.



Worcester Park £1,500 pcm

- A three bedroom semi-det house
- Spacious lounge & dining room
- Wooden flooring
- Very modernised kit
- Two double and one single bedroom
- Downstairs toilet
- D/G, GCH, OSP & Garage
- Part furnished



New Malden £1,500 pcm

- A three bedroom terraced house
- Spacious through inge with wood floor
- Modernised kitchen
- Downstairs toilet
- Three dble bedrooms
- D/G, GCH, OSP & Garage
- Part furnished
- Avail now



Surbiton £1,500 pcm

- A three bedroom semi det house
- Large dining room & lounge
- Modernised kitchen
- Downstairs toilet
- Master bedroom with en-suite
- Family bathroom
- D/G, GCH, OSP & Garage
- Close to BR St.



Kingston £1,350 pcm

- A three bedroom terraced house
- Newly refurbished
- Spac through inge
- Very modernised kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Two double and one single bedroom
- D/G, GCH, OSP
- Fully furnished
- Avail now



New Malden £1,200 pcm

- A brand new first floor 3 bedroom flat above shop
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- Very modernised kit
- Spacious lounge with new carpet
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SHELTERED

Advert No - 362788 Albury, 90 King Charles Road, Surbiton, KT5 8QP

Sheltered: 1 double bedroom ground floor flat. Level access shower. 3 stairs to main door. Communal garden. Street parking available. Close to bus stop, Post Office and local shops in Berrylands Road. Hopper bus service to Kingston. Applicants must have been assessed as suitable for sheltered housing. Preference may be given to priority applicants in mob cat 3. **Preference will be given to priority bidders aged over 60.** No cats or dogs allowed.

Landlord: Royal Borough Kingston
Approx Weekly rent: £106.00 (inc. service charge and water rates)

SHELTERED

Advert No - 362816 Longhurst, 68 King Charles Road, Surbiton, KT5 8QP

Sheltered: 1 double bedroom ground floor flat. No lift. 3 stairs to main door. Gas heating. Communal garden. Street parking available. Close to bus stop, Post Office and local shops in Berrylands Road. Hopper bus service to Kingston. No cats or dogs allowed. **Preference will be given to priority bidders aged over 60.**

Landlord: Royal Borough Kingston
Approx Weekly rent: £93.00 (includes service charge and water rates)

SHELTERED

Advert No - 365302 Hanover Rise, Britannia Road, Surbiton, KT5 8TR

Sheltered: 2 bedroom (1 double, 1 single) ground floor flat. Level access shower. **NO BATH.** Electric storage heating. Minimum of 2 people for the 2 bedroom flat. Communal garden. No communal facilities i.e. laundry room or lounge. May be suitable for a wheelchair user. Preference may be given to applicants in mob cat 2/3. Applicants must be over 60 years old. 1 well behaved dog allowed. 15 minute walk to bus stop and local shops.

Landlord: Hanover Housing Association
Approx Weekly rent: £134.00 (inc. service charge and supporting people)

1 BEDROOM

Advert No - 360735 Witten House, Sheephouse Way, New Malden, KT3 5PP

1 double bedroom ground floor flat. GCH. 1 stair to main door. Communal garden. Store shed. Parking available. Close to bus stop and local shops. No cats or dogs allowed.

Landlord: Royal Borough Kingston
Approx Weekly rent: £89.00 (includes service charge and water rates)

1 BEDROOM

Advert No - 360732 New House, South Lane, New Malden, KT3 5LH

1 double bedroom ground floor flat. No steps to the front door. GCH. Shed and Communal garden. Parking available. Close to bus stop and local shops. No cats or dogs allowed. Preference may be given to bidders in mobility category 3.

Landlord: Royal Borough Kingston
Approx Weekly rent - £90.00 (includes service charge and water rates)

2 BEDROOMS

Advert No - 362563 Brinkley, Burritt Road, Cambridge Road Estate, Kingston, KT1 3HU

2 bedroom (1 double, 1 single) 13th floor flat with lift. Warm air heating. Private balcony. Street parking. No cats or dogs allowed.

Landlord: Royal Borough of Kingston
Approx Weekly rent: £92.00 (inc. water and service charge)

2 BEDROOMS

Advert No - 364680 Armeston, Sheephouse Way, New Malden, KT3 5PU

2 bedroom (1 double, 1 large single, 9.2 sqm). 3rd /4th floor maisonette. No lift. 42 stairs to access. 14 internal stairs. GCH. Private balcony. Communal garden. Store shed. Parking available. Close to bus stop and local shops. No cats or dogs allowed.

Landlord: Royal Borough Kingston
Approx Weekly rent: £96.00 (inc service charge & water rates)

3 BEDROOMS

Advert No - 364768 Fulbourn, Eureka Road, Cambridge Road Estate, Kingston, KT1 3JQ

3 bedroom (2 doubles, 1 single) 2nd/3rd floor maisonette. 14 internal stairs. Lift. Level access shower. **No bath.** Gas warm air heating. Private balcony. Communal garden. Street parking. **Bidding may be restricted for management reasons.** No cats or dogs allowed.

Landlord: Royal Borough of Kingston
Approx Weekly rent: £102.00 (inc. water and service charge)

3 BEDROOMS

Advert No - 364471 Brockworth, 1 Gloucester Road, Kingston, KT1 3RG

3 bedroom (1 small double, 2 singles) grd/1st floor Maisonette. 14 Internal stairs. GCH. Communal garden. Limited Parking. Close to bus stop and local shops. No cats or dogs allowed.

Landlord: Royal Borough of Kingston
Approx Weekly rent: £115.00 (inc. water and service charge)

Our property adverts will now appear in the Kingston Guardian, not the Property Weekly (which is not being published separately). There will be no adverts on the 24th and 31st December 2008. The next advert will appear on the 8th Jan 2009 in the property section in the Kingston Guardian.

3 BEDROOMS

Advert No - 365303 Beaufort Road, Kingston, KT1 2TH

3 bedroom ground floor flat (2 double, 1 single). GCH. New kitchen and bath fitted. Communal garden. Parking space available. Preference may be given to priority applicants on mob cat 3. No cats or dogs allowed.

Landlord: Richmond Churches Housing Trust
Approx Weekly rent: £115.00 (inc. water and service charge)

We are running a pilot scheme, where we are carrying out multiple viewings on some Council properties. At these properties, we invite the top 5 eligible bidders to view at the same time. If all 5 are willing to accept the property, it is offered to the bidder with the highest priority (providing that they are eligible to be made the offer). You must attend the viewing to confirm if you are willing to accept the property.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Your Move Rochills are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £ 189950.00 for 271a Eastcote Avenue, West Molesey. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Your Move Rochills, 69 High Street Walton on Thames KT12 1DJ
TEL :01932 222120
before exchange of contracts.



Notice Of Offer

Property Address: 59 Belvedere Gardens, West Molesey, Surrey. KT8 2TB

We advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £165000.00. Any persons wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts.

Agents Address: 69 High Street, Walton on Thames, Surrey. KT12 1DJ
Agents Telephone Number 01932 222120

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Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 57 Wingfield Road Kingston upon Thames Surrey KT2 5LR, who died on 14/05/2008, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 27/02/2009 after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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We, John Anthony Dickinson and James Preston Bradney of Bridge Business Recovery LLP, 3rd Floor 39-45 Shaftesbury Avenue London W1D 6LA, give notice that on 27/11/2008 we were appointed as Joint Liquidators of HJC Estates Limited by a resolution of a meeting of the company's members and creditors. Dated 27/11/2008.

PETER JOHN STUART
COLES (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased late of 32 Brooklands Lane Weybridge Surrey KT13 8UX, who died on 11/08/2006, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 20/02/2009, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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GENERAL PROJECT ASSISTANT Ref:KUS/352
£17,642/year

We have a vacancy for a General Project Assistant to carry out daily general project assistance duties on all sites of Kingston University. Assisting in ongoing and various projects, work will include monitoring of sites, gathering information and reporting details required for various projects, maintaining appropriate records and working with contractors and fellow workers. The successful applicant will be self-motivated with the ability to manage their own workload. Previous relevant experience is necessary and a high standard of general project assistance skills are essential. Good communication skills as well as willingness to travel to all University sites are also required.

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1 (level 2)	37	07:00 to 15:00	Monday to Friday

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Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2EE

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Please leave a contact telephone number



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A basic knowledge of how trade unions operate is desirable, but not essential. Further information can be obtained from www.unison.org.uk.

If you would like an informal chat about the post or an application form, please contact the Branch Secretary, Alex Yap on 020 8547 5166/email UNISON@rbk.kingston.gov.uk, or write to the UNISON Office, Guildhall, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 1EU.

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms is **12 Noon on 2nd January 2009.**

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Extreme measures

Jonathan Crouch looks at the impact of bad weather on the roads and those who have to use them

When temperatures are plummeting and forecasters are predicting rain, strong winds and even snow, the roads usually become a nightmare for motorists.

Here are some important tips for us all to keep in mind when driving in extreme weather conditions.

Driving in heavy rain and floods

1. Stopping distances are at least double that of normal, dry roads so keep back from the vehicle in front for better visibility and increased thinking and stopping time. Spray can make visibility as bad as fog so slow down. See and be seen and make sure your headlights are on dipped beam – which is a legal requirement.
2. If your tyres lose grip on the road because of excess water, known as aquaplaning, ease off the accelerator and slow down gradually.
3. If you are driving through floods, drive slowly in first gear but keep the engine speed high by slipping the clutch, which will stop you from stalling.

4. Try to avoid the deepest water, which is usually near the kerb, and don't attempt to cross if the water seems too deep.

5. Always remember to test your brakes when you are through the flood before you drive at normal speed.

Driving in windy weather

1. High-sided vehicles are most affected by windy weather, so be aware that strong gusts can blow them into your path, but high gusts can also throw a car off course. Be particularly aware of this on open stretches of road exposed to strong cross winds, or when passing bridges or gaps in hedges.
2. In extreme windy weather, your vehicle may be affected by turbulence created by large vehicles, so keep well back from them and take extra caution when overtaking.
3. Make sure, when driving in high winds, that both hands are in the correct position on the wheel – a sudden gust of wind can seriously effect the vehicle's stability and you

will require maximum control to counter this.

4. Controlling your speed is an important factor – reducing your speed will provide additional stability.

Driving in icy and snowy weather

1. Whenever setting off on a long journey when the temperatures are freezing, ensure you have a blanket, a warm reflective jacket and possibly a flask of warm fluid in case of emergency.
2. Driving on snow is dangerous but at least you know it is there. Driving on ice is even more dangerous, not just because it can be more slippery, but mainly because you often cannot see it and the thicker it is the harder it is to see.
3. Black ice forms when running water or standing water freezes on the road and doesn't automatically disappear when the sun comes out. Expect to find it on corners, bends and roundabouts that haven't been warmed by the sun and it won't take you by surprise when you do encounter it.



4. Good visibility is especially important when driving in snow, therefore it is essential to scrape off all ice and snow before making a journey. It is actually illegal to drive without good all-round visibility. Ensure all the mirrors are clear and the defroster has cleared the inside of the windows. Never use hot water to clear the windscreen as it can cause damage.

5. Low winter sunshine reflecting off snow can be blinding, so keep a pair of anti-glare glasses in the car.

Statistically, the end of the year is a bad time of the year for millions of motorists as the weather changes from the relatively mild autumn into the wintry months. Make a mental note of these safety tips and apply them with common sense – it's all about managing your space.

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e/windows, clocking, BMW
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1.6sx, 2001 Y, air condi-
tioned, tinted electric win-
dows, really outstanding
condition, lovely metallic sky
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Diesel wheelchair access,
lowered floor, 2008, only
three hundred miles, takes
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authentic model, one
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tric windows, manufacture
warranty £9,995 01737
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owner, immaculate, metallic
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windows, cd stereo, alloys,
history, economical 50mpg
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48,000m, blue, service
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36,000 miles, s/history, new
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NISSAN MICRA 1.2 SE
automatic, 2005(October),
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owner, only 12,000 miles, 5
door, a/con, CD stereo, tinted
e/windows, immaculate
silver body work, alloys, his-
tory £5895 01737 359 802
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Hdi, estate, 2004 (54), met
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pan roof, e/w, e/t/m, r/c/l, c/c,
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50mpg, superb family vehi-
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2000(X), two owners, 52,000
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automatic, 2005 05, immacu-
late electric blue body work,
charcoal interior, air condi-
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dows, only 13,000 miles, his-
tory, one owner £4990,
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RENAULT MODUS 1.6
dynamique, automatic 2004,
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Renault

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Renault

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SEAT TOLEDO diesel sport DSG auto, 2005, 5door 36,000m, full Seat service history, climate/aircon, cd, 18 alloys, met grey £7450 tel 020 8761 8090 (T)

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SKODA OCTAVIA elegance estate 2.0 turbo 2002/52 manual, aircon, park sensors alloys full history met blue £2200 tel 020 8761 8090 (T)

Suzuki

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 1.9DDSI, t/diesel, 2008/08, kashmir, blue metallic, 5 speed, p/steering, abs, alloys, climate, CD, side steps, e/windows, c/locking, one owner, 4,000 miles only, as new suzuki warranty 2011, £11,995 www.risegreen.com (T)

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TOYOTA YARIS 1.0 t3 automatic vvti, 2003, only 28,000 miles, absolutely immaculate electric blue body work, lovely tone interior, p/steering, e/windows, history £4995 01737 359 802 www.kingswoodmotor.co.uk(T)

TOYOTA AVENSIS automatic, 1.8GS, VVTi, 5 door, 2002/52, silver, p/steering, abs, aircon, CD multi plater, phone kit, airbags, e/windows, c/locking, 49,000 miles, s/history, one year warranty included £3650 01737 830517 www.risegreen.com (T)

Under £1500

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FIAT PUNTO 1200cc, 5 door, long MOT, 1999, 6 months tax, metallic blue, 5 speed, radio, vgc inside & out, ideal first car, Bargain £695 020 8395 8129 (T)

FORD ESCORT estate TDI finesse, 2000, 90,000m, FSH, met blue, aircon, e/windows, PAS, c/locking, alloys, stereo, radio/CD, 103,000 miles, MOT to Nov 09, VGC £1500 tel 01684 591 539 or 07855 958 327 (T)

FORD GALAXY 1998 R, 7 seats, 2.3 Ghia, blue metallic, 5 speed, power steering, central locking, electric windows, radio/CD, 103,000 miles, MOT to Nov 09, VGC £1500 tel 01684 591 539 or 07855 958 327 (T)

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1.4merit, 1995/M, red, 60,000m, mot april 09, 5door hatch, Speeded man, airbag power steering 2owners (last owner 10 years) no rust/dents excellent cond throughout **£660**
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VAUXHALL ASTRA

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Under £500

CITROEN XANTIA SX 5 dr hatchback, P reg, MOT, p/steering, c/locking, radio/cassette, blue metallic, alloys, spotless condition throughout, lovely to drive £495 tel 07905 540 924 (T)

FORD FIESTA Summer svp, 1.1, L-reg, 3 door, new MOT, good runner, good condition £3250no 020 8977 3548 or 07971 717742 (T)

RENAULT 21 GTS 5 dr hatchback, K reg, MOT Oct 09, p/steering, c/locking, sunroof, radio/cassette, lovely original condition throughout, drives perfect £395 tel 07905 540 924 (T)

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 5 door hatchback, M reg, new MOT Dec 09, p/steering, c/locking, sunroof, radio/cassette, alloys, blue metallic, nice clean condition £425 tel 07905 540 924 (T)

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Your Local Guardian



Seconds step into limelight

With Surbiton Hockey Club's first team enjoying the Slazenger EHL National Premier Division winter break, attention at Sugden Road turned to the seconds on Saturday, who defeated East Grinstead 3-1.

Grinstead, the Higgins Group London Hockey League Premier Division leaders, had no answer as a rampant Surbiton side put in a superb display.

Goals from James Royce, Hugh Wilson and Matt Lee ended Grinstead's unbeaten run, propelling Surbiton up to second in the table, just two points behind the leaders.

Meantime, at first team level, the action goes indoors as the club aim to regain their National Premier League status after an absence of three seasons.

Their eight National Division One fixtures take place at Hull, over the weekend of January 10-11, and Haslemere, on January 17-18, with the top two out of the nine competing sides being promoted to the following season's Premier Division.

Full story: kingstonguardian.co.uk

It's a washout

Kingston's fourth round EDF Senior Vase clash at Bognor was cancelled on Saturday due to a waterlogged pitch.

Ks had been keen to build upon last week's superb 23-3 London Four South West home win over Gosport & Fare, but the eagerly anticipated cup match was postponed after the heavy showers.

Ks travel to in-form table-toppers Weybridge Vandals this Saturday in the league, in what is sure to be a firm test of their promotion credentials.

Ks currently sit in sixth place in the table, 10 points behind Saturday's opponents.

More rugby: kingstonguardian.co.uk

Christmas is cancelled at Ks as Dowson targets title



Back: Max Hustwick has returned to full fitness SP22112

Olympic legend Daley Thompson once trained on Christmas Day to help him win decathlon gold at the 1984 Los Angeles Games, and Kingstonian boss Alan Dowson has taken a leaf out of the big man's book this yuletide.

The Kingsmeadow chief has officially cancelled festive celebrations for his promotion-chasing squad by barring them from office parties and calling them in to train on Boxing Day.

Ks currently top the Ryman League Division One South table, but saw their lead slashed to two points thanks to the postponement of Saturday's clash at Fleet Town.

And Dowson insists the enforced rest will not knock his side off their stride.

"I've turned into a bit of a Scrooge and a bit bah humbug. We are going out to attack every game to win and, if we don't do that, it won't be for a lack of fitness," he said.

"I've pretty much cancelled Christmas. Nobody is going to office parties if they clash with training and they will be in on Boxing Day to do some extra work."

"It is a time when other teams take their foot off the gas, but these boys are committed to stepping it up

by **STUART AMOS**

samos@london.newsquest.co.uk

and giving us the edge going into the new year.

"We are always monitoring fitness levels to check players are not getting out of shape or putting on weight. That will carry on over the Christmas period. It is nothing we are not doing already."

"The boys are prepared to work hard for it. They have got the bit between their teeth and feel they have something to prove."

Dowson added winger Anthony Joseph and veteran goalkeeping coach Adrian Blake to his playing staff this week as he prepares for a busy schedule, which includes a trip to second-placed Cray Wanderers.

The Kingstonian manager has always insisted he will bring in players if they are better than he already has and has not ruled out further changes to personnel in the new year.

Defender Max Hustwick has returned to full fitness, leaving a selection headache at the back this weekend, with Wayne Finnie outstanding during a 3-0 win at Dulwich Hamlet earlier this month.

Ks' next three games: Dec 21 Sittingbourne (h), 27 Cray Wanderers (a), Jan 3 Croydon Athletic (h).

SPORTS**brief**

FOOTBALL: Goals Wimbledon in Beverley Way, New Malden, are hosting a football assessment day on Sunday, December 28. Players of all abilities are invited to attend and have their skills assessed and receive advice on their football careers. They will then be put forward for one of the centre's six coaching programmes.

More football: kingstonguardian.co.uk

FOOTBALL: Corinthian Casuals' Ryman League Division One South clash at Walton & Hersham was postponed on Saturday due to a waterlogged pitch. Casuals entertain Fleet Town on Saturday as they look to pull away from the drop zone.

More football: kingstonguardian.co.uk

FOOTBALL: Chessington & Hook United's Combined Counties League clash at Ash United was postponed on Saturday due to a waterlogged pitch. Chessy, currently lying in 13th place in the Premier Division table, entertain Colliers Wood United this Saturday.

More football: kingstonguardian.co.uk

ATHLETICS: Kingston & Polytechnic's Matt Hyatt and Mick Huntley impressed at Hercules Wimbledon's pre-Christmas inter-club cross country event on Saturday. Hyatt finished in fourth place in the main cross country race, while Huntley was fifth. The Kingston team finished in third place in both the three-a-side and eight-a-side competitions.

Teams (three-a-side): 1 Hercules Wimbledon 7; 2 Veterans AC 21; 3 Kingston & Polytechnic 22; 4 Croydon Harriers 30. **Eight-a-side:** 1 Hercules Wimbledon 73; 2 Veterans AC 92; 3 Kingston & Polytechnic 135.

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